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PRESIDENT VIDELA SENDS NOTE TO GISCARD REGARDING NUNS

FY240051Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1924 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Paris, 23 Jan--Argentina responded to France today for the first time regarding the kidnaping of two French nuns and the security of French citizens in general in Argentina, it was officially announced here.

French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing received a note today from his Argentine counterpart, Gen Rafael Videla, which briefs Giscard on all the investigations that are being held.

The Argentine president gave details in his note on the nature of the investigations and the security measures taken, and he promised new information in the near future.

Official sources stated that the note sent by Videla is the first official Argentine reply to all the inquiries made by the French Government on the matter of the nuns and of French residents in general.

CHILEAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES PRESIDENTIAL MEETING

FY202356Y Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jan 78 p 1 PY

[Text] Asked about the Beagle Channel dispute, Rene Rojas Galdames, Chilean ambassador to Argentina, stated here that the breaking of diplomatic relations or an armed conflict between Chile and Argentina is unlikely.

In a statement he made late last night to a group of journalists, he noted that the meeting between Presidents Jorge Rafael Videla and Augusto Pinochet can solve the issue or can be the beginning of achieving a peaceful solution to the issue.

Rojas Galdames noted that highly positive results can accrue from this presidential meeting. He alluded to the personal friendship between the two presidents, which resulted from General Videla's visit to Chile in 1976.

The ambassador noted that "there is no reason to fear any conflict. Chile and Argentina are peace-loving nations." He then alluded to the historic, geographic, cultural, social and economic ties between the two nations.

Immediately thereafter, he noted that this is not the first disagreement between these two nations and that they have been overcome before. He added that "two things can occur in the present situation: either the issue is solved on Thursday, or the first step is to achieve a peaceful solution is taken." This is why the ambassador did not discard the possibility of a new round of negotiations between Videla and Pinochet.

The Chilean ambassador was then asked whether a break of diplomatic relations or even an armed conflict could occur if an agreement was not achieved.

Rojas Galdames delivered an emphatic answer: "That would never be the case. Argentina and Chile are peace-loving nations. There is no reason to think about these things. We are going to solve everything through negotiations; even more so when there is such a close friendship between Presidents Videla and Pinochet and when our two nations are firm supporters of peace."

The journalists held a meeting with Rojas Galdames at the Chilean Consulate in Mendoza, which is located in a residential area at Civit and Olazcoaga streets.

Rojas Galdames was accompanied by the Chilean Government representatives with whom he later continued to study details related to the presidential meeting.

5 NOV NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH PERU RATIFIED

PY202102Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1550 GMT 20 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan--The contract signed on 5 November 1977 between the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) and the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute (IPEN) has been approved by Decree No 90 of the National Executive Branch. The agreement includes the (?design), construction, equipment and the operation of Peru's reserach nuclear plant.

The decree authorizes the Aregntine Central Bank, on its own or on behalf of the National Development Bank--subject to approval by the Executive Branch--to sign a financial agreement with the National Bank of Peru, as provided for in the contract. The Finance Secretariat will grant the financial guarantees which may be necessary to implement the contract.

The importance of this contract within the Latin American context as well as the necessity to obtain approval by the respective governments in order for it to be implemented are repeated in the whereases of the decree.

POLICE TORTURE INCIDENT IN SANTA FE PROBED

PY192239Y Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 18 Jan 78 p 11 PY

[Text] Col Carlos Ramirez, Santa Fe police chief, stated on 16 January that the six noncommissioned officers and policemen of the dispatch Section of the Villa Constitucion Regional Unit who had tortured a man to death and injured another on 13 January were a "cancer within the institution."

Colonel Ramirez added: "We will use all the possible administrative weight to punish human rights violations and we will be strict with those responsible." The victims, Roberto Trilla, 37, and Samuel Segovia, 20 were tortured, beaten and then left in their neighborhood in Villa Constitucion. As a result of the blows, Trilla died shortly afterward, and Segovia is still in a hospital in Rosario.

Col Carlos Ramirez also stated that, as a first step, he ordered the removal of the head of the 6th Regional Unit, Inspector General Omar Sbinedt, from the staff, and ordered the intervention of this unit. He said: "Our policy is to eradicate all malpractices in the institution."

Colonel Ramirez concluded by reporting that Police Inspector Luminato Bertolini had been appointed interventor of the unit.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER RAMON AGOSTI GOES ON LEAVE

PY132049Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 13 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Air Force Commander-in-Chief Orlando Ramon Agosti has left for San Carlos de Bariloche to spend his leave there.

GOVERNMENT TO LEGALIZE UNIONS BEFORE END OF MONTH

PY211900Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1517 GMT 21 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 21 Jan--The Bolivian Government will reestablish union activity in the country before the end of the month, it was officially confirmed in La Paz today.

The Labor Ministry released a communique for the press today in which it is stated that in the next few days, the union leaderships will be chosen and the labor unions will be recognized by the government.

The Confederation of Bolivian Businessmen issued a statement in which they asked the government for legal recognition of labor and business unions.

This will automatically end the role of "labor coordinators," who were union leaders appointed by the government

FSTMB LEADERS EMERGE FROM HIDING AFTER 2 YEARS

PY231800Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1625 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 23 Jan--The leaders of the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB] today came out of hiding after 2 years and resumed leadership of the most aggressive and politicized labor sector in this country.

Nine members of the Executive Board who were elected at a national miners congress in 1974 arrived at the headquarters of the labor organization this morning and gave a press conference.

Five "labor coordinators" who were named by the government in 1974 to be responsible for reorganization of the powerful group attended the meeting.

Headed by Filemon Escobar and Gilberto Bernal, the miner's leaders, who today came out of hiding, asked the occupiers of the downtown building "to peacefully hand over the headquarters and its belongings to the real leaders, who were elected at the congress held in Corocoro," one of the main districts of Bolivian nationalized mining.

The miners' leaders indicated that they had abandoned clandestine union activity to take advantage of the general amnesty decreed on Friday by President Hugo Banzer's government.

Escobar, one of the most outstanding leaders of the Bolivian leftist labor sector, indicated to the international press that he is willing to face the regular courts, "where we know we are still accused of being subversive and extremist political criminals. We will face any charge, but we will never go clandestine again," he added.

FSB'S PONCE CABALLERO INVOLVED IN SHOOTING INCIDENT

PY201720Y Sucre Radio La Plaza in Spanish 1630 GMT 20 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The rumor spread last Wednesday that Jaime Ponce Caballero, a leader of the Bolivian Socialist Falange, had to fire shots in the air to escape from Interior Ministry personnel was confirmed today in the bulletin published by the General Information Directorate.

FURTHER REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON GEISEL VISIT TO MEXICO

Friendship-Cooperation Pact Detailed

PY201237Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Jan 78 p 17 PY

[Text] The friendship and cooperation agreement signed by Presidents Geisel and Lopez-Portillo yesterday stipulates, among other provisions, that "the signatories will make every effort to obtain a gradual expansion and diversification of their trade."

It also indicates that in the interest of improving maritime transportation "they will support revision of the agreement on maritime transportation signed in Brasilia in 1974, to bring it up to date regarding maritime traffic between Brazil and Mexico."

The following articles are the most important:

1. The high contracting parties agree to establish and improve premanent mechanisms for cooperation, understanding and exchange of information on matters of common interest.

3. [two is omitted] A Brazilian Mexican joint coordination commission is to be installed with the objective of strengthening cooperation between the two countries, analyzing and monitoring matters of common interests and suggesting necessary actions to the governments.

4. The high contracting parties will make every possible effort to expand and diversify trade relations by properly exploiting opportunities which may arise.

5. Considering the benefits which could result from close cooperation in carrying out industrial expansion plans, the high parties will support investment by one country in the other, in either the public or private sector, according to respective national regulations.

6. Taking into consideration specific Brazilian and Mexican infrastructure programs which will boost economic and social development, the high contracting parties agree to promote measures to facilitate the mutual participation of enterprises in infrastructure projects and works in the two countries.

8. With the aim of stimulating cooperation in the agricultural sector, the two countries will trade information and experience, providing reciprocally the greatest possible assistance on production and agricultural techniques.

9. With the objective of supporting the improved organization of maritime transportation between Brazil and Mexico, the high contracting parties will promote revision of the maritime transportation agreement signed in Brasilia on 24 July, 1974, adjusting it to the realities of traffic between the two countries.

Geisel Interview on Visit

PY201640Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Jan 78 pp 8-9 PY

[Collective interview with President Ernesto Geisel by Brazilian and Mexican newsmen in Mexico City on 18 January]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr President, at the end of a 3-day visit to Mexico City, what was more positive: the opening of trade prospects with Mexico through credits, or the awakening of Latin America to the fact that its peoples should be less dependent on the great powers?

[Answer] The question you have asked me is obviously very complex, because you want to know what was more positive. I feel that the whole trip was more positive. To be positive about bilateral relations between Brazil and Mexico was to be quite positive within a broader Latin American framework. I found, with great satisfaction, that Mexican President Lopez-Portillo and I have the same views, that multilateral negotiations do not generally lead to practical and objective results. It is more appropriate to begin negotiations at the bilateral level and then expand them progressively, so that in time, a set of bilateral relations will lead to a consensus which may yield results at the multilateral level. I feel that the idea of Latin American integration through a large number of current organizations has not gone any further than theory and rhetoric--that we have beautiful ideas, beautiful principles, we talk a lot, but very little has been achieved in practical and objective terms.

Obviously there are two interrelated and fundamental fields: politics and economics.

Economics today has gained extraordinary importance, and our talks were based on this. I could hardly say which of these two is more positive. I feel that both make up a group.

[Question] Mr President, what is your opinion on the possibility of Latin American integration, even when there are ideological disagreements among Latin American regimes?

[Answer] All these questions refer to the problem of Latin American integration. If I understood the question, on one hand you ask if ideological aspects, often divergent, are not an obstacle to that integration; on the other hand, if national interests are not a hindrance to that integration; and finally, if Brazil is for that integration.

I talked about this problem a little while ago. We, all of us, are for integration, but we must admit that it is not easy. Proof that it is not easy is that we have been working at it for a good many years already. Speaking of integration, we cannot make it all encompassing by will power, because integration cannot involve all areas and cannot go to the same depth. Integration must be carried out with due respect to the various nationalities--the peculiarities of each Latin American nation, its sovereignty, its self-determination and its independence, whether the country is big or small. It should obviously respect the ideological system, also. We all understand democracy and try to be democrats as much as conditions permit. But democracy is not of a single kind; it varies with the nature and mental development of the people. I believe that the democracy practiced in Brazil and Mexico is not the same democracy practiced in the United States or Germany. There are peculiarities in each country which are influences in some way. That integration which we seek, of which we dreamed and for which we work has its own profile. It cannot be integration in the absolute meaning of the word. It should be a road opened, a path set and an objective sought. We have to be convinced by now that it will be accomplished in the long term, because the obstacles and difficulties standing in the way of that integration are of two kinds:

On one side, our own countries impede integration because of their own interests and circumstances; on the other, the rest of the world is many times not interested in that integration. But I believe that no matter how difficult the problem, integration should not be abandoned. On the contrary, we all must keep our interests in it and work for integration to become a reality as soon as possible and under the best conditions.

[Question] Mr President, you have proposed a pragmatic and ecumenical foreign policy for your government. Has the ideological factor been any obstacle in implementing that foreign policy?

Mr President, it has been said that one of the objectives of your trip was to establish a broad Latin American front to handle the difficulties of the countries in the continent with the United States. Is this true?

[Answer] Much has been said about human rights. I believe that the subject is now in fashion around the world and it is an underlying principle of President Carter's actions. And with the influence which the United States wields in the world, it is only natural that the subject got around and so today we are all talking about it. Incidentally, those human rights have been recognized by the United Nations Organization and by the various countries, including Brazil. And Brazil, just like the other countries, is really interested in the preservation of those human rights. The only disagreement we have with other countries is that we believe each country must take care of its own problems and that there is no justification for the interference of other countries in the internal economy of any country in particular. Brazil has preserved that principle, but without the connotation other people, including the press, give to it. The common concept of human rights is restricted to a problem of freedom, without imposing on it the fundamental condition of responsibility. Human rights are also given the exclusive connotation of political ideology. However, this is not the question, because human rights have other facets. Time and time again I have emphasized and stressed that human rights encompasses some basic and fundamental rights without which human life practically cannot exist. The thing is that man has the right to live, but that to live with dignity, he must be educated, his health must be preserved, he must have food and shelter, he must have, above all, qualifications to insure him employment so that he may lead a dignified life. Now this is the view of developing countries such as Brazil--and I believe Mexico--and so I agree with President Portillo on why we are doing what we are doing--trying to develop our countries, trying to transfer into power the scare potential we have. We want our people to enjoy fully the whole set of human rights. To bring about that development which is difficult because of the funds which are necessary, we advocate and demand modification of the world's economic structure. We believe that the developed countries must give us support, must assist us, and that a formula must be found so that the developing countries may step up and accelerate their development so that no obstacles are raised in their way, because that development, which many think is only economic, is indeed aimed at social improvement. Then by integrating that social and economic development with political development, we will insure the wellbeing of our people and a better standard of living for them. Thus I will sincerely tell you: We will have a better democracy. Along this idea of insuring our development, Brazil wants to carry out a pragmatic and ecumenical foreign policy. We are an integral part of Latin America and we have talked about the problem of integration. This integration cannot exclude anyone, because we live in a world which becomes smaller every day. Distances are reduced as a function of the increasing speed of our means of transportation and of the ease with which we can communicate with each other these days. Consequently the idea of Latin American integration does not exclude Brazil's relationship with the rest of the world. This is what we referred to as ecumenism.

We maintain relations with practically all the world's nations--except Cuba, I believe--and we try to maintain not only good political, but especially good cultural and economic, relations, with the common objective of raising the standard of living of people and bringing the best possible benefits for Brazil. I do not believe that ideologies have stood in the way of that pragmaticism and ecumenism. Proof of this is the trade Brazil carries out with the Soviet Union, the East European countries, and the recent trade agreement signed with the PRC.

I was asked if one of the objectives of my trip was to analyze, or to have greater cooperation among the Latin American countries in order to face possible disagreement or difficulties with the United States. My answer is no.

I do not believe in the existence of a conflict between Latin America and the United States. It is possible that the United States, due to its leading position in the Western world, and worried with the myriad problems of Europe, the Middle East and Asia, does not recognize the importance Latin America has in today's world. It is possible that our relations with the United States are not as intense as they should be. This is so perhaps due to the absence of acute conflicts. Brazil has had traditionally friendly relations with the United States ever since the days of our independence. Our countries have been in contact and cooperating since that time. We were allies during World War I and again during World War II. And we have never had any unsolvable disagreement. This seems a natural phenomenon, but because we are friends does not mean we should agree on everything. We have had disagreements which we always try to solve through talk, dialog and understanding, and when we cannot find an immediate solution, we try to preserve our autonomy and self-determination. I know that some countries have more and some countries have less difficulties with the United States, but I believe that we should not look at the United States as an antagonist country. On the contrary, we should also work to get the United States to be an integral part of the Americas.

[Question] Mr President, you have just said that only Cuba has no relations with Brazil. Would Brazil be inclined to review the relations with that country?

Mr President, did the Mexican Government demonstrate some interest, although only preliminary, in the Brazilian nuclear program and its possibilites to produce nuclear energy for peaceful ends? At any rate, do you believe that Brazil could in this field offer new experience to the other Latin American countries in the medium and long term?

[Answer] In the current situation I see no reasons for Brazil to change its position toward Cuba. Along with the whole group of American nations except for Mexico, we cut off diplomatic relations with Cuba. We have no relations now and I do not see at this time any possibility for a change. We are concerned over Cuba's incursions into other areas, particularly over the presence of Cuban troops in Africa. Brazil is very much interested in Africa for historic reasons. For one thing, a large portion of Brazil's population is of African origin; and for another, for reasons of language identities, particularly with Angola and Mozambique, which were Portuguese colonies and have traditions similar to Brazil's. Finally, we are interested in African countries because they are neighboring countries across the Atlantic, which unites rather than separates us, and because we believe that Brazil may have an influence there and can give them cooperation in the economic and social fields. Taking all these factors into account, Brazil should be able to help raise the standard of living in Africa, so that countries which now have no more than a tribal structure can be integrated into the modern structure of mankind.

I presented to President Lopez-Portillo the Brazilian viewpoint on the question of nuclear energy. I showed him that Brazil has so far been served by its great hydroelectric potential. Thanks to the rivers and the changes in elevation they have, Brazil has managed to get its electric energy supply in that way. In this sector our growth has been extraordinary, with very high rates. On the one hand this growth in hydroelectric production was due to our industrial development; and on the other hand it was due to the rising standard of living of the population, including the people in the rural area, who have become consumers of large amounts of electricity. In the southern region we have just begun to touch that potential, but few points remain where hydroelectric plants can still be constructed. We have the Amazon River Basin, but it is too far away from our industrial consumption centers. We have a problem regarding electric power transmission over long distances which we should try to solve by resorting to the modern method of direct current transmission. We will also resort to a system of interconnection of electric energy networks throughout the country. Obviously this is quite a large undertaking which will demand years for its completion. We can foresee that in the near future we will be facing quite a serious energy crisis if we are not very successful in our search for oil and better-quality coal, if we do not have Mexico's luck in finding such an extraordinary oil deposit. We can see that despite the increased consumption of hydroelectric energy, Brazil still expends $4 billion in oil imports. If we think about the year 2000 and the demographic growth, we also have to think about new sources of energy. This is the reason for Brazil's nuclear program. This program was conceived as an integrated and complete program so that it will not be as vulnerable as our oil supply is. We have uranium deposits and we will exploit them, we will process it to make nuclear fuel by enriching it, we will produce energy and we will reprocess the waste so as to optimize the production of energy. This is an integrated and complete program which is characterized by its essentially peaceful purposes. The world today has fear of nuclear proliferation, but Brazil has commitments, including through the Tlatelolco Treaty, to make peaceful uses of nuclear energy. And more than this, Brazil has accepted all the safeguard clauses of the IAEA in Vienna, which has the approval of countries such as the Soviet Union, the United States and so on. This means that we will not avoid any control which might be necessary to verify the final use to be made of the nuclear fuel, particularly plutonium, so that it will not be diverted to less honest and less humanitarian purposes of building nuclear weapons. Our program is essentially peaceful and is intended to meet the energy needs of the Brazilian population. It is an indispensable and necessary program for us. We cannot live in 1978 without thinking only of the present. We have worries about the year 2000 at the same time that we think of solutions for today's problems. We think of the future as we think of the responsibility we have with the more than 100 million Brazilians who live today. As things stand now and as long as no other viable and practical source of energy is discovered, we can only resort to the nuclear energy which is available. I explained all this in more detail to President Lopez-Portillo. He understood the reasons well and concurred with me that Brazil is on the right path.

[Question] Mr President, the Mexican press reported the existence of some secret agreements, among others, trade and exchange agreements Mexico will sign with Brazil, and that the most important of them is the one on sale of war materiel to Mexico. Is this true?

[Answer] We signed no secret agreements. My talks with President Lopez-Portillo were all attended by other members of the Mexican Government and other members of the Brazilian delegation. We said nothing about war materiel. On the contrary, when we spoke of war-related questions, we all expressed that we favor disarmament. Mexico and Brazil are peaceful countries and our performance in disarmament conferences has been directed at disarming, in the interest of mankind, those countries which are armed to the teeth. Look, I can assure you that there has been nothing secret in the agreements signed or the talks held, nothing that cannot be brought out into the daylight without any qualms. I can also assure you that no military questions were discussed between Mexico and Brazil at any time.

Ministers Praise Visit

PA222220Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2335 GMT 22 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Brasilia, 21 Jan (LATIN)--Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira has said that President Ernesto Geisel's visit to Mexico was of enormous political importance, perhaps greater than other such visits.

During a lengthy television program broadcast here last night, Azeredo da Silveira and Industry and Commerce Minister Angelo Calmon de Sa assessed the president's trip to Mexico.

For Calmon de Sa the visit was important because Brazil sold Mexico goods ranging from chestnuts to airplanes.

For Azeredo da Silveira the visit was important because Brazil and Mexico signed a mutual trust document, something that had not been done before.

It was in this manner that the foreign minister generally referred to the success of the Geisel-Lopez-Portillo meeting that helped Brazil, among other things, to convince Mexico about its nuclear policy.

Azeredo da Silveira said that if we had left here saying that we were going to Mexico to convince it of the goodness of our nuclear policy, we perhaps would have been received with disbelieving smiles. However, that was fully achieved, the foreign minister said, noting the high degree of understanding reached by the two countries on various matters.

Brazil and Mexico showed that they are two countries of equal importance, with similar development problems and therefore conditioned to think along the same lines, not only with respect to global policies, where agreements tend to be easier, but also to Latin America affairs.

Calmon de Sa said that very few Mexicans knew that Brazil is Mexico's most important market and is therefore an important customer, but that the opposite does not apply to Brazilian goods.

He admitted that large transactions had transpired, but said that the trade possibilities between the two countries are even greater. Our two countries are very interested in accomplishing other technological transfers as well as an industrial integration, Calmon de Sa added.

We want to establish a close relationship with Mexico, the foreign minister said, explaining that this relationship should be based on their international attitudes, in the understandings born of the fact that Brazil and Mexico have a great role on the Latin American continent and in the degree of development in which this relationship should be built.

Calmon de Sa in turn spoke of the wide opportunities existing between Mexico and Brazil in building a greater commerical relationship.

He said that although the trade balance between the two countries has increased considerably, opportunities for bilateral cooperation in the area technological exchange are enormous.

MDB PRESIDENT CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT'S MISTAKES

PY231355Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1711 GMT 21 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 21 Jan--Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB], has stated here that the country is "tired" of government promises and "of a succession of governments which make the same errors." In reiterating yesterday his idea of holding a constitutional assembly, Guimaraes stated that "the country wants to have a door open to hope and other paths." He said that holding a constitutional assembly "is an overall solution and not a short-term solution to the Brazilian political problem," since to achieve a political opening "it is mandatory and essential to hear the nation and to know what kind of government Brazilians aspire to."

Guimaraes also criticized President Ernesto Geisel's announcement that he will replace Institutional Act No 5 (AI-5) with "safeguards in defense of the state." According to Guimaraes, "democracy must first exist to be defended. As for the institutional reform announced by the government, the MDB will approve it if convinced that the proposals are valid."

He noted, however, that this does not mean the MDB disregards its campaign for the constitutional assembly, adding that "we will continue to denounce the bad distribution of national wealth, tight salaries and inflation which unfortunately affects mainly the poor sectors of the population."

Guimaraes added "we will continue to denounce the high cost of medicine, doctors, education and housing."

Guimaraes said that "for 14 years we have experienced unkept promises and commitments, and while there is talk of improvement and of relaxation, we are witnessing cancellation of mandates and the enforcement of arbitrary measures."

As for the self-endorsed presidential candidacy of ARENA Senator Jose Magalhaes Pinto, Guimaraes said that the senator "is using his voice and his prestige to support our cause, since one of the fundamental goals of a constitutional assembly is to hold direct elections."

He also said that in his speeches Magalhaes Pinto is making "declarations with a democratic basis in which he states the need to hold direct elections." He then noted that "this is what the MDB and the nation want."

NOBRE OBJECTS TO PLANS TO NOMINATE JORDAO RAMOS

PY191906Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Jan 78 p 5 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--The designation of Military Court Justice Rodrigo Octavio Jordao Ramos as MDB candidate for the presidency, suggested by Senator Franco Montoro, was criticized yesterday by Deputy Freitas Nobre, MDB leader in the Chamber of Deputies, who feels that such a decision would pull the rug from under Magalhaes Pinto, whose candidacy should be encouraged." In general terms MDB deputies who were present in Brasilia yesterday expressed disagreement with the position taken by Senator Franco Montoro.

Regarding the possible designation of General Jordao Ramos, Nobre emphasized: "I think that the opportunity for announcement of the MDB candidate will not be repeated. The candidacy of Ulysses Guimaraes [in the previous presidential election] fulfilled its mission in the preliminary stage of creating awareness within the opposition. Today the situation is different."

Nobre feels that today "all sectors of public opinion are tuned to the demands for continuing redemocratization of the party's program. The fears of the people's participation in the elections have disappeared and the phony process of appointment has become more obvious through the rebellion of Senator Magalhaes Pinto than because of our own points of view."

He stated that he is aware that several comrades are making up their minds over supporting party members like Paulo Brossard or nonparty members like General Jordao Ramos, but he feels that the appointments are "mere suggestions" to the party's national convention, which he expects will be held before the ARENA convention to approve Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo. They are personal appointments, he said.

CHAGAS BLASTS ARTIFICE, DECEPTION OF REGIME

PY211258Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Jan 78 p 2 PY

[Commentary by Carlos Chagas: "One Candidate and Two Senators"]

[Text] In spite of the government's good intentions, its speeches and public announcements that the days of the laws of exception are numbered, Senator Petronio Portela's talks, and even the optimistic predictions in many circles that a state of law will be established through political reform, the truth is that black clouds continue to appear on the horizon. It could not be otherwise, because obscure innovations of formulas do not exist in a democracy. Democracy itself begins with free and uninfluenced elections, but here in Brazil--ironically, or maybe worse--we are starting toward democracy by treading the same winding road of artifice and doubletalk.

First, there is the way General Figueiredo is gaining power: without consultation or agreement, without regard for public opinion, without anything to stop him. He will get there simply because the monarch (excuse me, the president) wants it. Away with the people! And it is obvious that neither politicians nor officers would take part in any coalition. And that palace intrigue begun years ago and marked in July, 1977, with the now famous meeting with the president of the Federal Economic Fund, Humberto Barreto, is not a coalition.

Now, despite the candidate's efforts to show himself a democrat, to call himself a man of the constitution and the law, and to promise to become the author of democracy, there is more to be heard. And worse, a ridiculous opinion is beginning to circulate among circles in power: that the elections in the second half of this year will be the cornerstone for institutionalization. In other words, if ARENA wins the elections for the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate and the [state] legislative assemblies, everything will be fine. The imaginary road to liberty which the country could take, with a bit of luck, would be open, or at least defined. Otherwise, we are faced with the sad possibility of "anything may happen." That is, we will have a state of law and democracy if the people vote for the government. All this follows the despicable April "package" which inexorably cut off the wishes of the people, creating indirect governors and senators, expanding electoral colleges and, more than anything else, forbidding candidate campaigning on radio and television.

I mean to say that democracy is being planned through antidemocracy. We are searching for light by turning off the switches. We are preparing to climb by digging holes. The electorate can no longer select governors because they might choose the opposition. For the most part they cannot select senators either, for the same reason. They are also denied an enlightening campaign by the candidates through cameras and microphones, because the opposition's message would have greater influence than the government's. And now, to top it all off, we are confronted with a sine qua non condition to perfect the regime, the victory of those who benefit from the laws of exception and still need them to conceal the illegitimacy of their power. In the case of ARENA politicians, it is unbelievable that they are in the same shape as MDB politicians, thousands of miles from the decisionmaking center.

Let us agree on one thing: This cannot be. The means are the same as usual, the strategy is similar to previous ones, tricks and arrogance continue hand in hand--even dealing the cards. How can we achieve democracy like this?

Anyone can kid themselves, but these actions will never get good quotations on the political stock market, even if they are mainipulated and artifically imposed.

Now more than ever is the time for a clear and decisive statement from the country's candidate. After all, who can now doubt his rise to power? Misunderstandings might be cleared up, but there is always the risk that everything would be too well understood, which is exactly why General Figueiredo cannot speak.

The April "package" was a mistake. Almost everyone, except its all-powerful author, recognizes this. So we should begin our democratization not with Senator Portela's reforms, not with still-unknown dispositions and safeguards, but with the simple and clear decision to call free elections--open and uninfluenced elections, with the people electing at least their legislative representatives, if not the country's president. Unpackaged.

Senator Dinarte Mariz once maliciously presented Senator Daniel Krieger with a poem. We were living in sad days, with our institutions in rags, a step away from the AI-5 which dinarte was defending, without being the government leader, and Krieger was trying to prevent. Dinarte's ammunition should now be fired in the opposite direction: "There are not two worlds in this world, nor does heaven have two gods; there is no heart which can be loyal to two loves."

Democracy does not begin with doubletalk. Laws of exception are not repealed by artifice. Anyone can see that...

NEW ARMY LOGISTICS CHIEF ENDORSES FIGUEIREDO

PY190250Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jan 78 p 2 PY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--"Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo has all the moral and intellectual qualities and government experience to continue the 31 March, 1964 revolution."

This statement was made yesterday at the army general headquarters, at the urban military sector, by Gen Antonio Bandeira on assuming his post as new head of the General Services Department.

Bandeira added that "two main principles of the 31 March, 1964 revolution will be kept: struggle against subversion and against corruption, and as head of the National Intelligence Service [SNI] General Figueiredo is well aware of these problems."

Regarding the political reforms proposed by President Geisel, especially in his 1 December speech during which the president alluded to the cancellation of the exceptional acts, General Bandeira said:

"The revolution was a democratic revolution and the president can decide on whether the time is appropriate to improve the regime."

General Bandeira said that "General Figueiredo participated in the 31 March, 1964 revolution, he was one of the leaders, and his revolutionary spirit guarantees that he will give continuity, in the best possible manner, to the revolution."

GENERAL TOURINHO REFUSES TO COMMENT ON FIGUEIREDO

PY191656Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 18 Jan 78 p 3 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--Although other members of the army high command have recently commented on [Gen Joao Baptista de] Figueiredo's cadidacy [for president] Gen Airton Tourinho, the new head of the army's General Personnel Department, refused yesterday to give an opinion, arguing that he could only speak about his department or about the Superior War College [ESG], which he commanded for 2 years.

In his speech on assuming his new post, General Tourinho stressed the importance of the ESG commander's role, denied the existence of study within the ESG of a political plan to pull the army out of politics, but admitted that other government proposals related to political reform were studied.

BELO HORIZONTE POLICE CHARGED WITH TORTURE

PY201447Y Rio De Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 19 Jan 78 p 31 PY

[Excerpt] Belo Horizonte--Marcio Miguel, 23, a worker at the Fiat plant, has lodged charges of torture against the Police Robbery Department of this city. He told the judge of the Eighth Jurisdiction Court that he was tortured for 7 days [as published] to force him to confess to crimes.

Marcio Miguel, who works as a mechanic supervisor, said he was held incomunicado and kept on the "parrot's perch" for almost an hour to get him to admit what police detectives suspected. Water was forced through his nose and electric shocks were applied to his genitals.

BRIEFS

NEW AMAZON ARMY COMMANDER--Army Minister Fernando Belfort Bethlem will swear in Gen Rosalvo Edgardo Jansen as a new commander of the Amazon Army this morning. [Sao Paulo cadeia verde Amapela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY]

BELGIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY REMAINS ON DUTY

PY232310Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The Belgian ambassador to Santiago continues working normally. An informant from that European embassy stated that Ambassador Albert Boelaerts has not received any official communication from the Belgian Government regarding his possible removal as chief of this diplomatic mission. He said that the only information which the embassy has is that released by the press in its reports, which state that the ambassador has been called to Brussels by the Foreign Ministry which, according to these reports, has decided to reduce its mission in Santiago. Ambassador Boelaerts has been ambassador to Santiago since 11 December 1974.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT GUATEMALA 26-28 JAN

PY232313Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 23 Jan 78 PY

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Enrique Valdez is leaving for Guatemala City tomorrow on an invitation of the Guatemalan Government, the Foreign Ministry has reported. General Valdez will pay an official visit on 26-28 January, accompanied by (Carlos O. Zamora), protocol director; and (Jose Manuel Lovalle), cabinet chief. During his stay in Guatemala City, General Valdez will meet with Guatemalan President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud Garcia and with Foreign Minister Adolfo Molina Orantes. He will also sign two agreements with Guatemalan officials--one on cultural cooperation and the other on scientific and technical cooperation. Gen Enrique Valdez is scheduled to return home at the end of the week.

BEAGLE DISPUTE BLAMED FOR SIGNIFICANT DROP IN TOURISM

PY202058Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 20 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile--As a consequence of the problems between Chile and Argentina concerning the Beagle Channel decision, there has been a very significant reduction in Argentine tourists traveling to Chile. This remark was made by (Arturo Castillo), Chilean Hotel Association president, who also indicated that during the last few days hotel cancellations have totaled over 4,000 in Santiago and Vina Del Mar. (Castillo) also indicated that the hotel situation in his country is disastrous due to high costs. This situation has caused 10 hotels to close last year while only 1 new one opened.

ILO REPRESENTATIVE, LABOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL MEET

PY192348Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 19 Jan 78 PY

[Excerpt] After holding a meeting this morning with (Ramon Suarez), head of the Labor Department Directorate [of the Labor Ministry], regional ILO representative (Francoise Agostini) said that no one can say that Chile has violated the ILO agreement regarding freedom of unions since Chile has not signed this agreement.

(Agostini) held a meeting with the Chilean official to reiterate the ILO's will of cooperating with Chilean authorities. Answering a question after the end of the meeting (Agostini) said: We cannot say that Chile has violated the [ILO] agreement regarding freedom of unions because Chile has not signed this agreement." He noted that there are many countries which, regardless of the government they have, do not uphold those agreements signed by them--not because of bad faith, but because it is the characteristic of each country to determine the possibility it has to fulfill these agreements.

VENEZUELAN DEPUTY SEEKS RELEASE OF UNIONISTS

PY2017257 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Jan 78 p 8 PY

[Excerpt] "My mission is to ask that the worker comrades detained in Yapacarai be set free or at least that proceedings against them be speeded up," Rafael Leon Leon, secretary general of the Confederation of Workers of Venezuela [CTV] and a deputy in the Venezuelan Congress, stated yesterday.

Leon Leon arrived in Paraguay on 17 January and on 19 January he paid a courtesy call on the Chamber of Deputies and met with its president, J. Augusto Saldivar, with whom he discussed the possibility of meeting with the interior minister and with the president.

The Venezuelan deputy met yesterday with Justice and Labor Minister Saul Gonzalez and with officials of the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference. Today he will call a press conference to report on his progress.

PDC ISSUES STATEMENT ON ARREST OF UNIONISTS

PY2313407 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 23 Jan 78 p 22 PY

[Undated declaration issued by the Christian Democratic Party--PDC]

[Text] A group of 17 Social-Christian workers were detained on 17 December, 1977, by the police when they were about to hold a meeting in Ypacarai. These persons are members of the Paraguayan Study Center for Economic and Social Development [CESPES] and the National Urban Workers Central [CNTU], which is a branch of the Latin American Workers Central [CLAT]. As of 2 January, 1978, these 17 unionists have been put at the disposal of the court, charged with alleged violations of Law No 209: "defense of public order and freedom of persons." Some of the members of this group have reportedly suffered serious torture which endangered their lives at the Investigations Department.

In view of these deeds the PDC national board states:

These events reveal: That the right to free formation of unions for workers and peasants is not enforced in Paraguay despite the specific laws which uphold this right: Article No 109 of the national constitution; Agreement No 87 of the International Labor Organization [ILO] ratified through Law No 748/61; and the labor code, Law No 729/21;

That the government's union policy tends to create a situation analogous to those in totalitarian, fascist and communist regimes. The leaders of most of the unions recognized by the government are militants of the official party. Their objective is to enforce the official party's political and economic guidelines. Several "union leaders" have never been employed workers. The officialist union organizations act as couriers of guidelines and orders issued by government authorities and they serve as tools of control and submission of the workers to the exclusive service of the government. There are very few unions which struggle to maintain their relative autonomy: banks, insurance companies and businesses. To avoid problems, unions almost always give more importance to festive or sports events than to trying to improve working conditions for their members.

The police accuse the group of 17 of intending to reorganize the agrarian leagues, peasant cooperatives and the unions which are not members of the CPT [Paraguayan Workers Federation]. According to the police charge, the reorganization and reactivation of union organizations which are not recognized by the government is a crime punishable under Law No 209. Nevertheless, in accordance with Paraguayan legislation currently in force, this type of action is not a crime. On the contrary, it comes within the framework of legitimate exercise of the human rights of workers.

In accordance with Article 2 of Agreement No 87, "workers, without discrimination and without prior authorization (from the state), have the right to create the organizations they deem appropriate and of becoming members of these organizations (created without prior state authorization)..." Article 281 of the labor code indicates: "The law acknowledges that workers...without discrimination regarding sex or nationality and without the need of prior authorization, can freely create organizations which have as their objective the study, defense, development and protection of the professional interests and the social, cultural and moral improvement of the members." Government authorities will abstain from: "Every type of intervention which tends to limit these rights and of placing obstacles in the path of their implementation." (Article 283, 2d paragraph, of the labor code).

In accordance with these statutes, Paraguayan union law confirms the principle of optional plural unionism. Consequently, the state cannot stop the free creation of unions or oblige the workers to become union members when or where they do not choose to do so. The only punishment allowable in the case of a nonregistered union is to annul the actions it has carried out within the sphere of the labor law (Article 299 of the labor code); it is a punishment which does not, in criminal law, affect the union, its members or its leaders because it is a nonincorporated association with lawful aims which is protected, according to what we have seen, by express statutes of the constitution and the labor law.

The current legislation which confirms union freedom does not make any distinction between urban or rural workers. Therefore, the objective of reorganizing urban unions, agrarian leagues and peasant cooperatives is perfectly legal and it is the exercise of a right guaranteed by the national constitution; the exercise of a right can never be considered a crime, as is intended by the police charge against the 17 union members.

Neither is the intention of reorganizing unions which are not members of the CPT a crime. In accordance with the labor code, nobody can be obliged to become a member of a union organization through acts of violence or intimidation; neither can a union be obliged to become a member of a federation or confederation, even though there is a clause to the contrary in its own statutes (Articles 282 and 324). The membership of a union with a federation or confederation is a right, not an obligation. The police charge against the group of 17 would be valid in a totalitarian state where by deed or by law only the existence of one political party and one obligatory union is admitted.

The police know perfectly well that the 17 labor leaders are persons with strong democratic, peaceful and Christian convictions; that they are committed to putting themselves at the service of the workers with no motivation except improving their living conditions through organization of and solidarity within the labor movement. The false accusation that the group of 17 is interested in reforming the political military organization is not supported by facts.

The note presented to the Justice and Labor Ministry by the CPT, expressing concern over the situation of the labor leaders arrested and requesting their release--quite an unusual move--reflects in fact the government's concern with the serious situation created for the CPT with the ORIT [Regional Inter-American Labor Organization] and the CIOSL [presumably, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions]. Cancellation plus the simultaneous withdrawal of subsidies the CPT received from them, forced the CPT into attempting a timid and purely formal defense of the arrested labor leaders, for the purpose of showing a new image to the international labor organizations mentioned above.

The PDC denounces these facts before public opinion, facts which constitute an outright violation of workers' human rights, and requests that the government decide once for all to respect and guarantee those rights.

INCREASE IN FOREIGN MONETARY RESERVES NOTED

PY201400Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 Jan 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "The International Monetary Reserves Continue To Grow"]

[Text] The international monetary reserves continued the process of accumulative growth which they have been registering for the last few years. While the net international reserve grew by $39 million--i.e. 35 percent--in 1976, they grew by $108.2 million--71 percent--in 1977. Net reserves amounted to $151.4 million on 30 December, 1976, and $259.6 million on 30 December, 1977.

This auspicious result is due to the significant increase in exports, to the investment made by the binational enterprises Itaipu and Yacyreta, to external loans to the public sector and to investment of private capital.

Due to the solid backing of its reserves, the Paraguayan Central Bank made its first contribution, on 29 December, 1976, to the IMF Monetary Fund [Presupuesto de Monedas del IMF] equivalent to 1 million SDR's amounting to $1,158,978. On IMF instructions this sum was deposited with the National Bank of Panama. In May, 1977, the Central Bank made a second contribution to the IMF Monetary Fund equivalent to another 1 million SDR's which was transferred to the Union Bank of Burma, Rangoon. With this transfer, the Central Bank's contribution to the IMF Monetary Fund amounts to 2 million SDR's, equivalent to $2,320,203.

In February, 1977, the IMF for the first time returned gold to member countries. Paraguay received 4,065.5 troy ounces of fine gold, equivalent to $165,000.

The Central Bank's reserves are mainly in German marks worth $132 million--i.e. 54 percent-and the other 46 percent is in U.S. dollars.

Due to the large amount of reserves, delayed remittances by banks for the payment of imports only amounted to $198,000 at the end of December, 1977, while they amounted to $1.7 million at the end of December, 1976.

It is important to indicate that the high growth of international monetary reserves registered last year may have inflationary effects due to the amount and quickness of implementation of the forms of payment which involve currency issuances by the Central Bank to purchase the foreign exchange which enters the country.

Nevertheless, on 30 December, 1977, net reserves amounted to 64 percent of currency issuances, which amounted to 39.144 billion guaranies on that date. Circulating currency grew by 42 percent and net reserves by 71 percent.

In addition to the increase in bank saving accounts, which acts to contract the money in circulation, the Central Bank uses other instruments for monetary control, mainly the legal bank reserve [encaje legal bancario], as factors which help attenuate these inflationary repercussions. Therefore, in view of the large amount of foreign exchange which is entering the country, the institution which issues money should refrain from granting loans to the public sector because they would increase the existing inflationary pressure. An exception, of course, is short-term loans to the national treasury to check seasonal fluctuations in fiscal income.

INTERIOR MINISTER CONFIRMS FUGITIVE IS IN ASYLUM

PY201436Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Jan 78 p 8 PY

[Excerpt] The Mexican Foreign Minister reported to Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues yesterday morning that Mirtha Elena Ayala Ferreira had sought asylum at the Mexican Embassy here. This report was confirmed by Nogues when he was asked about it.

Meanwhile, Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro said yesterday that next Monday or Tuesday a press conference will be called to report on the subversive movement broken up by the police.

Police commissioner Alberto Cantero, chief of the Political Section of the Investigations Department, pointed out that "the asylum of Mirtha Elena Ayala at the Mexican Embassy is a fact. We even know that this woman sought asylum on Sunday morning, which we were able to confirm although members of the embassy denied she was there."

BRIEFS

OIL STORAGE PLANT APPROVED--Buenos Aires, 17 Jan--The Paraguayan Government was authorized to build a storage plant for oil and its byproducts at km 112.6 of the Parana de Las Palmas River in Zarate Port, Buenos Aires Province, through law No 21,728, originated in the Argentine Economy Ministry and supported by the Foreign Ministry and approved by the president. The plant will be used exclusively for transit of such goods to and from Paraguay. Any foreign equipment, materials and supplies needed for the plant will be tax-exempted provided they are used for the plant. The law states that the establishment of this plant was requested by the Paraguayan Industry and Commerce Ministry on 15 September 1976, and that the undertaking is one further step to strengthen the relations between the two countries. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1545 GMT 17 Jan 78 PY]

CGTP CALLS OFF GENERAL STRIKE, SETS 23 JAN DIALOG

FY201627Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 78 FY

[Text] The stoppage has been suspended; activities will be normal in all labor sectors on 23 and 24 January. The General Confederation of Workers of Peru [CGTP] has suspended the general strike scheduled for Monday and Tuesday.

This decision was made by request of the president of the nation so that a solution to the problems may be found through dialog. In a communique announcing this decision, the CGTP states that it has studied the real dangers which are threatening union organizations and the nation.

Dialog will continue on 23 January. Union leaders will hold a meeting with the interior minister on Monday. The CGTP advises union and political organizations to be united to face any threat against our country.

The communique released by the CGTP reads as follows:

The CGTP National Council, evaluating the real dangers which are threatening the union organizations and the nation, and in view of the authority granted by the 13 January national meeting, agrees:

Whereas:

1. The country has been informed about the seriousness of the national defense situation created by provocative action, with which U.S. imperialism and its agents are not unacquainted;

2. The CGTP received a written statement from the president of the nation this morning expressing his disposition to find solutions to the problems which had caused the decision to strike--this statement will be released to all workers and to public opinion;

3. A meeting has been scheduled for 23 January with Labor Minister Jose Garcia Calderon to discuss the problems affecting the working class; and

4. Reactionary sectors in the country have implemented a huge campaign to discredit the [word indistinct] union movement, particularly the CGTP, to distort the legitimate goals we seek, emphasizing that those sectors have never contributed in seeking any solution--a situation which the CGTP categorically rejects because it involves political maneuvers which depend on the support of the APRA and other imperialist agents;

Therefore, the CGTP National Council decides:

1. To suspend the national strike scheduled for 23 and 24 January;

2. To continue talks at the highest level to try to find a solution to the problems and petitions presented to the military government;

3. To demand the understanding of organizations which make up the Unitary Struggle Command [comando unitario de lucha] for this uncoordinated decision and to ask their support for it;

4. To call for a national assembly of CGTP delegates on 7 February to report on this decision and on the results of meetings which may have been held;

5. To encourage union organizations and political organizations which defend the people's interests to unite quickly and effectively to meet the dangers which are threatening the working class and the Peruvian people.

[dated] Lima, 19 January 1978; [signed] Isidoro Gamarra Ramirez, president; Eduardo Castillo Sanchez, secretary general; and (Luis Lamadrid Flores), organization secretary.

'ULTRALEFTIST' LEADERS BLAMED FOR STEEL STRIKE

PY211815Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 78 PY

[Text] It is reported that the profit of 350 million [currency not indicated] which the Peruvian State Iron and Steel Enterprise [SIDERPERU] was to have obtained this year, will not be reached because of the partial strike which the labor union began on 6 December last year. Regarding this situation the industry, commerce, tourism and integration minister pointed out that the obstacle is the SIDERPERU workers, who are manipulated by an ultraleftist leadership and obstinately continue their strike at the Chimbote plant.

He also stated that those workers only harm the country and their own interests by their attitude, and that the lack of profit through lower production will keep the industrial community from receiving the dividends which would permit a salary increase.

Ibanez O'Brien said that what is happening at the Chimbote iron and steel plant is a clear example of manipulation and use of the workers by a leadership which is concerned only with its specific political goals, rather than with the welfare of the workers it says it defends. He also explained that the iron and steel plant has not come to a standstill at any time.

TEXT OF 6 JAN HAYA DE LA TORRE ADDRESS TO APRA RALLY

PA181449Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Jan 78 pp 4, 9 PA

[Text of speech by Victor Haya de la Torre at American Revolutionary Popular Alliance rally in San Martin Square, Lima on 6 January, 1978]

[Text] Fellow countrymen, people of Lima, in this historic square 44 years ago I laid the groundwork for the Aprist Movement which at that time emerged amid uncertainty. It appeared as a new force which was welcomed by the people of Lima in this same square. It appeared with a completely original ideology which today has become the demand of all nations. The movement that I brought here with the emblem of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance, which was founded in Mexico on 7 May, 1924, brought a new message that was received by the people, 25 percent of whom were the heirs of the Gonzales Prada Popular University. They were the heirs of the old call of Gonzales Prada. The new anti-imperialist voice was established and emerged here among another crowd in which most of you were not present. The new anti-imperialist voice said: neither with Washington nor with Moscow, only Aprism will save Peru.

In the international sphere, Aprism appeared under the sinister shadow of a crisis, the 1929-1930 crisis--a crisis which permitted the "hotheads" to predict the final fall of capitalism, announcing it then with the same enthusiasm that they announce it today, making the same mistake twice. I have come tonight, comrades and fellow countrymen, to discover the origins and causes of this regrettable situation, this atypical situation in which Peru finds itself. Do you want to talk with me to see if we can discover that the demagogues who believe that the 1977 crisis will fulfill the disastrous destiny of the 1933 crisis, that this is the cause of our economic situation, that we are experiencing the consequences of a universal situation in which capitalism and imperialism are destroying each other and that after this terrible midnight there will be a social revolution "made in Moscow?" [sentence as published] I come here tonight with a dissident message. I want to talk with you face to face. I want to tell you that our rank and file have been deceived, that half truths or complete lies have been said because in the face of the 1930 crisis, the Aprist proposal of 1931 served as a pretext for the sinister announcements of a social change in the world that never came and which brought about a strengthening of the capitalist system and imperialism. The domestic interpreters of the right and the left misinterpreted real events. Aprism then raised its voice and said: It is not so, imperialism is powerful. We have to struggle against it, we have to adapt our policy to the inexorable fact of its survival. We have to carry out an intelligent social struggle, a social struggle based on common sense and which will not lead us to the illusion of believing that in this country, one of the underdeveloped countries of Latin America, an extraordinary and exemplary model or action is being carried out.

We must return to the modest vision of our reality: The "Peruvian model" has been turned around. It is Peruvian model of how to destroy a country.

Because of this, comrades and friends, we who comprise the vanguard party of the defense of Peru, of its true interests and its authentic realities, must now voice alarm and tell the spokesmen who state that the economic crisis we are experiencing is due to the great international crisis that this is not true.

In 1972, we celebrated the "day of fraternity" in Marte Field and I said then, in an appeal to wisdom and common sense, that there is a wrong approach in the view presented by the government, giving an non-existent Peruvian reality. It is a demagogic way of distorting reality. I said this is a wrong approach. One must discover reality in its true dimension. The developed world, the distant, the advanced world, the progressive world that has been described with various adjectives, that world continues to be powerful, that is the imperialist world. But that imperialist world now has two forms, two phases, two aspects. There are two imperialisms now we must consider and evaluate the existence of two imperialisms. Those two imperialisms confront each other. They coexist separately. But there are two imperialisms. The new imperialism, social-imperialism, emerges with the first and elemental forms of struggle, appropriation and domination. Those two imperialisms are rivals. They confront one another. One of the imperialisms is characterized by being the imperialism of private property, of wealth based on the exploitation of man by the state.

And if those two imperialisms enter into a struggle or go to war--which is not improbable, which is different from what a newsman said when he misinterpreted my statements very wrongly as having said that the war was necessary, but necessary is not a synonym of improbable. [sentence as published]

I said that war was a possibility because it was one of the kinds of struggle used by imperialist forces in their great rivalry, and if that rivalry went as far as a third war--I complete my thoughts--and if that war decided the victory of a new imperialism, that victory would not be the victory of communism, it would be the victory of state capitalism.

Consequently we have before us this great alternative, this tremendous reality. Unfortunately it is not true, as theoreticians and doctors say, that way of explaining national and continental happenings, it is not that way of telling the people: The cause of your misfortune is the international crisis. [sentence as published] And when they argue on television with those who know less than they, it turns out that they do not tell them what cannot be explained, that the cause of our misfortune is the crisis of international capitalism.

That is why I now want to make myself understood to a people who, if they do not know, they foresee or feel by intuition or discover that which has been the vital force of Aprism in its 50 years of survival. [In this sense, we have] the answer of that poor peasant who was told by an insolent comissar: "You do not understand Aprism and you never will understand it because it is a complicated doctrine." And the peasant said: "I do not understand it but I feel it." With this sensitivity, this evidence of feeling Aprism as we all do even though we may not understand it, as the people who have given it their vital breath for 50 years do, we can today also discuss the formulas which Aprism offers in focusing upon the national situation, with evidence and facts, saying that what is happening in the world is a crisis of another kind, is the crisis of big capitalism which is making adjustments, is reaffirming itself but is not falling apart, or dying, and that we, the anti-imperialistic parties must face this reality because the struggle against imperialism, no matter how powerful it is, is a valid struggle which people should wage. It is the struggle that must be carried out against those powerful forces and should first be acknowledged as being powerful, evaluated as being powerful, but against which we must struggle decidedly and tenaciously, seeking the fulfillment of social demands with true human justice, seeking the fulfillment of these for the solidarity of the people, for their unanimity, for their realism, feeling of struggle. They know, they understand the magnitude of the danger, but this will not make them refrain from struggling for a true social change.

That is our people's situation. That is the situation of the peoples of our hemisphere. That is why we find in our hemisphere prosperous countries alongside countries that are subject to depression, misery and indebtedness. I do not know, comrades, if this attempt at discussing these topics--which are the party concerns that should be examined in seminars aimed at even the most humble peasant or least informed worker--I do not know, as I was saying, if it is alright for me to be discussing these things tonight. But I am doing it with the certainty that if for the past 50 years our great party has remained powerful, united, disciplined, alien to and apart from the totalitarian temptations of the ignorant or those who have vested interests, we shall maintain our ideological line independent and free and we shall be able to explain to Peru the reasons for its situation, the reasons for its misfortunes and contradictions, and the reasons that the problems we have all been going through have been given a poor explanation--that of a world capitalist crisis.

The world capitalist crisis represents a readjustment, a reevaluation of capitalism itself at its very bases, at its foundations. It represents the conflict created by the appearance of another imperialism and all the problems of the developed world, which are not our problems. We are being affected by those problems, but our own analysts are not viewing this clearly; they are examining our economy and the society undergoing development in the wrong way. And that is why we should change our views, which obviously have been influenced by these easy explanations. Instead we should say: there is an imperialism. The consequence of that imperialism, of that conflict that reflects itself through inflationary waves that touch our shores, affect our realities and commit us to a course of action does not explain the true origins of our crisis. I have come here to say what do you think?

That is why, comrades, we should live full of hope and optimism, determined to struggle to the end against the individuals who conspire against our prosperity and our well-being. We are experiencing a crisis and we are struggling against it. Let us not passively say: Oh, the crisis of big capitalism is the catastrophe of the whole world which is going to destroy a system because the arrival of a new social order is already being announced. There is a new social order, the order that the anti-imperialist struggle establishes for our people, guiding them in their efforts in defense of justice. The world is a struggle and big capitalism has always struggled against the working masses.

That struggle exists, but that struggle is external, carried out in a different way from that adopted today by extremists or those who offer easy solutions to extremely difficult problems. It is not true that Marxism is easy to understand and study. It is precisely the revindication of the fundamental concepts of Marxism--I wrote an article in 1931, precisely, not all Marxism is communism and not all communism is Marxism. [sentence as published] Of course, that was considered a heresy, a heresy, and the great spokesman of Peruvian reaction, the oligarchy and the rightwing, whose name I am not going to mention because he is in the mind of everyone, presented those new ideas that Aprism brought as proof of our sinister conspiracy against the social order and against the permanent value of society.

Thousands of people of all classes believed that. That is how the anti-Aprism began. That is how the persecutions were justified. That is why we were persecuted for half a century. But it also gave rise to the magnificent and favorable reaction of the Peruvian people who maintained their unity, discipline, loyalty and agreement with the principles which, even if they could not fully understand, were understood through the honesty or their men, the loyalty of their leaders and the certainty that we do not deceive them. It also gave rise to popular sayings such as: In the coast, Sierra and mountain, APRA never deceives.

Comrades, those are the circumstances, quite unfavorable, in which APRA has operated among an underdeveloped people, subjected to a caste and an oligarchy that is unfortunately very badly educated politically, people who have only partially understood the art of easily obtaining wealth and spending money sometimes with greater ease. We have thus created here a class and a system of classes skillfully adaptable to the grotesque denomination of things. But we also have to be faithful, firm and clear and state that we have the social configuration of an underdeveloped people, as the ruling classes of those countries have; theimperialist preponderance dominates and so it is just, reaonable and intelligent to create an anti-imperialism that will adapt to those conditions, maintain the principle of the revindication of the workers with energy, perseverance, loyalty, and morality, and to create the structure of an anti-imperialist state able to organize itself and create a model, this time, a Peruvian model, a Latin American model of how one must struggle against the powerful, of how one must defend social justice, of how one must intelligently work in the face of an international phenomenon that involves us. [sentence as published]

Comrades, I announce to you that a political campaign that will tenaciously try to establish democracy in our country is opening today. We are going to struggle faithfully and honestly to participate in the elections for the constituent assembly. That campaign begins here in this square today. Almost half a century ago in this square, on a night as calm as this one, I promised the people to struggle to the end and to lead the party with intelligence and courage. Now I make that same promise at 82. I tell you that I shall be here until the end. The rest of my life will be at the service of the people.

A few days ago I spoke to the Peruvian Aprists residing in Venezuela. There are many Aprists there and more are arriving in this sister country, which is not feeling the impact of the crisis of international capitalism. The theoretician of social defeatism, of which we have many, cannot go to Venezuela, and tell them that in Latin America we are experiencing the consequences of world capitalism because he would be belied by the facts and by the presence of all the Peruvians who have been able to escape to Venezuela and work and earn more. Well, I told those Aprists: I am going to Peru, we are going to begin a new campaign, the campaign for the constituent assembly, to campaign to participate in elections, the campaign to win the elections. In this campaign, I shall use as a slogan the words of my dear friend Cesar Vallejo when in one of his poems he said: "I will stand fast." I have come to tell you that I will stand fast and I hope that all of you will.

But if you must stand fast you must fight, one must have reliable information and one must demand this information from the government. We cannot confront the socioeconomic reality that dominates our unfortunate situation if we do not have a true panorama and reliable information. We must seek information, we must have the true figures of our foreign debt, of the origins of this debt. Why were the loans made? Because we had other debts. Very well, this is a reason but there are others. We must know the reasons in order to form concepts, and in order to arrive at the information we must have. This is a point of view. Let us look at other points of view.

Let us look at the extension and magnitude of bureaucratic corruption in Peru. But to find it, we must have information. That is another point of view. It pleases me, my friends, that this marvelous assembly should become a democratic forum in which everyone gives his opinion, in which everyone prepares to act accordingly in a free and courageous manner in the forthcoming electoral conflict.

Comrades, we must fight for these principles. No more dictatorships: We must avoid the demagogy that is the denial of democracy. Let us continue loyally to follow the Aprist line. We are Peru's most powerful party. I am here with you and we are going to struggle together. We are all going to conclude this effort with a clear concept of what are the true policies we must know, protect and defend. We are in a favorable position: We have the support and protection of Peru, which is not in this plaza, but which is in the banks and in the provincial cities supporting us.

I insist, comrades, that this is the party's great role at this stage of the game, in this spiritual stage in which we must give evidence of intelligence, discipline, clarity of concepts, decisive spirit and optimistic struggle. The fall of the dollar and the economic crisis can be described as a crisis of repercussions. Historian Toynbee, in one of his quotes, mentioned our friend and comrade Ramiro Priale in an interesting phrase. He said: When the United States has an economic sniffle, these underdeveloped countries come down with triple pneumonia.

This, comrades, this concept of imperialistic power and its repercussions, this is what we must keep in mind, evaluate and analyze. The North American sniffle must not produce a colonial broncopneumonia in the developing countries. We must react to this sniffle with some antiseptic so that we do not contract these ills. In order to see and analyze these events, their origins and effects I invite you to a series of seminars and discussions so that we can give to the most humble workers and to the least informed, the complicated reasons for these events. We must explain them and not merely reply to questions with isolated statements, more or less related to each other. I believe that this gathering, this grand gathering, this magnificent opportunity to make contacts, between leader and people, is the beginning of the electoral campaign which we are inaugurating in this plaza. Just as in 1931 Aprism began its life here, so today are we resuming the life of Aprism here.

We are going to work here so that we can show those poor interpreters of the agrarian reform and teach them the ways of economic dialectics. Why teach a child wrongly by following the instructions of projects which come by correspondence from Moscow, and why do they continue to repeat what they cannot verify. We must show them with vigor, with determination and with clarity. I am especially addressing the young, to that 25 percent of the children who need our information, who need our help, who need to know what Aprismo is, why it has existed for 50 years, why it has maintained its unity and its discipline which is reflected in this magnificent assembly. We must know the accomplishments of this movement, which is impartial, poor, without resources, subjected to outrages, to persecution, to misinterpretation. It is a movement which has to be just where justice is due. For example, we must tell the government that one cannot announce that a constituent assembly will establish a government which will have no power. There is no government without power. However, it is good that these same lips say something which is worth a lot to Peru: I have managed--I am speaking of myself, in the first person--I have directed the task of ending the enmity and hate between the army and the Aprist Party. That is very important because eliminating hate and enmity between these two guardian forces of Peru--which involved a sinister plan of maintaining a great division by a certain press organ whose name it is not necessary to mention--means to truly solve the great problem which Peru must see ended (someone shouts: only the APRA will save Peru). Only the APRA will save Peru and only the APRA will save it by unifying all Peruvians; leading, comrades, to the true spirit of national unity. That is what we have struggled for, that is why we have placed at the service of such a cherished ideal everything we could give of our effort, of our intelligence. Therefore, because the Peruvian people have so understood it and because there is something like an imperious design which leads to the realization of great works against all forms of adversity, we can say that if Aprism accomplishes the job of unifying Peru, of joining the army with our popular forces, of strengthening principles of reasonable justice which we promote in our program--which was misinterpreted and disturted--our program which had enemies on the right and the left, enemies of ignorance, of incomprehension and poor political criteria--if we manage to consummate this great ideal and realize this great job of ending the hate between the armed forces and the party, we will have realized that principle which states that the APRA will save Peru.

Aprist comrades, tonight I believe I have realized my intention of trying to place before the opinion of the Aprist youth, before the reason of our masses, the true sign, the true emblem of what could be called the beginning of our campaign tonight. I believe that I have your support. We are going to work together for Peru, despite the adversity plaguing us, despite the forces of confusion which are conspiring to make us stray from our path. We are going to continue working as a single, powerful party, as the republic's first party. We will count on everybody's effort. This is what I am asking from each one of you tonight. I came with the aim and strong wish of outlining these ideas in the clearest possible manner. I am impressed by this huge crowd here. I hope that the newspapers will not detract from it or misrepresent it tomorrow. We have seen tonight how Aprismo can fill the square in which we have defended our ideals so many times. Upon saying good night, comrades, I ask that we do not become separated, that we remain united, that we maintain our faith wherever we are working or thinking. Let us think that we are APRA soldiers, that we are members of a responsible party in which a mobilization of forces means the mobilization of Peru's will.

We will struggle for the constituent assembly; we will win the elections for the constituent assembly; we will try to make the constituent assembly a sovereign, model institution, where sovereignty will prevail as the true expression of true popular will.

Comrades, I have repeatedly heard the cry of "with you until death." My answer is: With you until death, I have nothing else to offer. Long live Aprismo! Only Aprismo... (will save Peru, the crowd shouts).

GASTON IBANEZ O'BRIEN SAYS NEW INDUSTRY LAW READY

PY211740Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Jan 78 PY

[Text] The new general industry law is now being written, but no hasty action will be taken to promulgate it [words indistinct]. [Industry and Tourism Minister] Gen Gaston Ibanez O'Brien said that the new law is very important and it is therefore advisable to be careful and give it well-established general guidelines. He added that the economic-financial policy has led to recession in the industrial sector, which has registered a negative growth of 4.5-5 percent. Ibanez O'Brien thought it would be suitable to reach agreements permitting the exchange of some nontraditional Peruvian products for food or machinery, a system which might be applied to products of which we have surplus stocks, such as shoes, iron, textiles and ready-made clothes. He said that this system would permit factories, which are still maintaining reduced production, to find a good outlet and thus increase their production. The industry, commerce, tourism and integration minister [as heard] also said that some state enterprises which do not produce articles of basic importance might change ownership. He specifically mentioned the Arequipa food dehydration plant.

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC UNITY DISCLOSES LEADERS' NAMES

PA171757Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Jan 78 p 5 PA

[Text] A new political group named the People's Democratic Unity was formed on 29 December. It advocates the establishment of a people's revolutionary government as "the only solution to the serious crisis we are experiencing," a press release says. Its leaders are Antonio Aguilar, Jorge Bejar, Luis Benitez, Abraham Cabello, Manuel Dammert, Ronald Gibbons, Agustin Haya, Angel Loayza, Andres Luna Vargas, Edmundo Murrugarra, Luis Rocca, Jorge Seno and Carlos Tapia.

The UDP notes that Dr Alfonso Barrantes, Ret Maj Victor Villanjeva, Prof Alfredo Torero and Rosa Alarco joined the Executive Committee at a later date.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT

Roel Reception For Mondale

FL212145Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2100 GMT 21 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--In an obvious reference to energy, Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel told U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale that Mexico is not speculating with its nonrenewable resources, which are the people's patrimony; rather Mexico will invest intelligently for a complete development for the collective good.

In the presence of President Jose Lopez-Portillo and the invited guest, the Foreign Secretary stated that human and natural resources serve as the base for building a solid political system, founded on a clear popular unity and defined values.

In another part of his remarks, Foreign Secretary Roel noted: "We are sure that this great democratic nation (United States) must want on its southern border a healthy Mexico, prosperous, satisfied in its legitimate aspirations which offer understanding, stability, respect and good will.

Mondale, after thanking Roel for the dinner reception, called Lopez-Portillo one of the most outstanding leaders of the world today, admired in the United States as a political leader, lawyer, writer, and urban planner and fiscal reformer. He added that his voice is one of the most authoritative when speaking on defense of peace, progress and the well-being of the world.

Mexican President on Gas Price

PA221703Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0038 GMT 22 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 22 Jan (AFP)--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo said today, one day after his meeting with U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, that Mexico is going to sell its gas at the price it has set because it considers the price to be just.

Interviewed by newsmen, President Lopez-Portillo reiterated that Mexico will maintain the position that it will sell its gas at $2.60 per thousand cubic feet because it has the alternative of either selling or consuming it.

With regard to his conversations with Mondale yesterday, President Lopez-Portillo said that "while the United States does not have an energy program approved by Congress, Mexico will manage its resources to help its economic development." He pointed out that any version about Mexican-U.S. relations deteriorating because of the gas negotiations "is alarmist."

U.S. Bases Not Sought

PA221954Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0058 GMT 22 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Jan (AFP)--Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Santiago Roel denied here today that the United States is applying pressure against Mexico for military bases on Mexican territory.

Roel, who is accompanying U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale on a trip to Merida's tourist and archeological zone, said "let us not fall into antipatriotic traps. The 'Big Stick' era in Mexican-U.S. relations is in the past."

For Roel, so-called manifest destiny is obsolete. He told newsmen that Mexico and the United States maintain their relations "on a plane of dignity, respect for one another's sovereignty and emotional maturity."

The rumor of the supposed installation of U.S. military bases originated from a bilateral agreement which supposedly was still in effect and which granted the United States the right to establish bases on Mexican territory. Roel flatly denied it.

Vance To Visit Soon

FL232143Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2111 GMT 23 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel has said that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will make an official visit to Mexico soon, on a date not yet determined.

The aforementioned announcement was made during U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale's visit to this country. On that same occasion, U.S. Ambassador Patrick J. Lucye said that secretaries of labor and agriculture from his country, F. Ray Marshall and Thomas Bergland, will also be visiting Mexico soon.

These trips will be part of the Mexican-U.S. rapprochement begun by Presidents Jimmy Carter and Jose Lopez-Portillo and reaffirmed by the recent Mondale visit.

Mondale Returns Home

FL232130Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2120 GMT 23 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale has returned to Washington following a 36-hour visit to this country.

Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel, representing President Jose Lopez-Portillo, bade farewell to the visitor at the airport in Merida, Yucatan (1,500 kilometers southeast of here).

Roel asked Mondale to convey the most cordial greetings to President Carter "in view of the new diplomatic era--so important, serious, solid and emotionally matured--that we have established with the United States."

Mondale expressed gratitude for the attention he received in this country.

Roel Will Visit Washington

PA240345Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpts] From Merida, Yucatan State, it was reported that U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, his family and retinue returned to Washington D.C. today after a 1 and 1/2-day visit to archeological sites of the area.

At the [words indistinct] International Airport, the U.S. Vice President and Mexican Foreign Secretary Santiago Roel exchanged friendly words which closed one more chapter in the good relations between the United States and Mexico. During the ceremony, gifts were exchanged and honors were bestowed on the visitors.

On his part, Secretary Roel said that a new important diplomatic era has just been opened. [Words indistinct] visibly moved. He also announced his forthcoming visit to the United States to continue the bilateral consultations.

MRS TORRES ANNOUNCES END OF EXILE

FL232116Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2108 GMT 23 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Emma de Torres, widow of former Bolivian President Gen Juan Jose Torres and living in exile here, has announced that she will return to Bolivia "to join the (?column) of men and women who are struggling for social rights in Bolivia."

In statements to Mexican television Channel 13, the widow of the former president said that upon returning ot her country she will blame incumbent Bolivian President Gen Hugo Banzer for the assassination of her husband in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 1 June 1976.

Mrs Torres described herself ideologically as a nationalist and anti-imperialist, "just like my husband."

HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

PA210030Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1830 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 20 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran Foreign Minister Roberto Palma Galvez will talk with Mexican jurists today regarding the preparatory negotiations underway between Honduran and Salvadoran representatives in Lima. Foreign Ministry sources reported this morning that Palma Galvez left yesterday for a 2-day trip to the Mexican capital, but did not give the names of the jurists with whom he will meet. The Honduran Foreign Minister's visit to Mexico City, which was planned since last December, had been postponed because last-minute commitments made his presence in the country necessary.

RABASA: GOVERNMENT WILL END CIA 'ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES'

FL212127Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2118 GMT 21 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Jan (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Former Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Emilio Rabasa has asserted that the espionage activities of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) are a wrong "which we have always suffered." He stated his conviction that the government of President Lopez-Portillo will strongly reject any meddling by that organization. The former foreign secretary made the statement in the wake of reports to the effect that the CIA has infiltrated certain echelons of the Mexican Government "to prevent it from moving to the left." Rabasa said he is convinced that the present government will put an end to the illegal activities of the CIA here.

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER NESTOR TOMAS GUERRA RESIGNS

PA240002Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Jan 78 PA

[Text] A Public Works Ministry Public Relations Office source informed this station a short time ago that Public Works Minister Nestor Tomas Guerra has submitted his resignation to President Demetrio Basilio Lakas.

CESAR QUINTERO INTERVIEWED ON TREATIES, SENATORS' TOURS

PA212234Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[News Director Mario Velasquez interview with Dr Cesar Quintero, dean of the Law and Political Science School of Panama University--live or recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Quintero, I would like to talk to you tonight about the always current topic of the treaties, notably about the frequent visits by U.S. senators in recent weeks and certain reports coming from both Washington and Panama that the Joint 14 October Carter-Torrijos declaration will be added to the treaties, not to mention the desire of some U.S. senators to amend the treaties.

First, I would like you to give me your opinion concerning the many trips by U.S. senators to Panama to meet government officials, General Torrijos, political party leaders and civic leaders. These visits have been rather frequent and, in my opinion, they are a method of pressuring Panama.

[Answer] I quite agree with you that the visits by most of the senators constitute a method of pressuring the national government in order to obtain modifications, reforms, additions, amendments--as some of them want and this would be a rather serious matter--to treaties that have already been negotiated over 13 long years and were carefully drawn up by State Department experts.

I feel that to a large extent those senators' trips respond primarily to what you already mentioned: they are a means of pressure. Secondly, they have a domestic purpose as well: Since this is an election year for senators and representatives in the United States, they want to give the impression to their electorates that they are taking a special interest and demanding a number of things. This attitude is not appropriate because the negotiating stage is over and because the U.S. Constitution is very clear on this point. Only the President, the Executive Branch, negotiates. It negotiates with the advice and consent of the Senate, but even technically speaking ratification is up to the President. It is all right to say that the Senate ratifies. Many use this expression, however, technically speaking, the President of the United States is supposed to have been negotiating with the advice and consent of the Senate. Of course, this senatorial approval then is formalized through a vote which is normally oral and must have a two-thirds majority. However, the senators have no reason to become directly involved in the negotiations with the other party. Any advice or involvement by them must be channeled through the U.S. executive.

[Question] Dr Quintero, there is something else about which I would like to hear your opinion. A spokesman for the State Department yesterday voiced his satisfaction over the fact that General Torrijos is willing to include in, add to or complement the treaties with the joint 14 October Carter-Torrijos declaration. The news report does not exactly specify what [General Torrijos is willing to do]. In addition to that, the last group of senators who were here headed by Senator Sparkman said on Contadora Island before leaving Panama that they were not disclosing any secrets by telling newsmen that General Torrijos is willing to have the joint Carter-Torrijos declaration added. Dr Quintero, this same report says that General Torrijos has apparently stated that the eventual inclusion of this joint declaration in the treaties would not require another plebiscite.

I have two questions, Dr Quintero. What is your opinion of incorporating the joint Carter-Torrijos declaration into the treaties in any way, and do you feel as an attorney that if the declaration is incorporated into the treaties another plebiscite will not be necessary?

[Answer] In my judgment, the negotiating stage concluded when the treaties were signed by the President of the United States and the Panamanian Chief of Government in Washington on 7 September. This was the conclusion of that stage. Then there was an understanding or a talk between President Carter and General Torrijos on 14 October, that is to say, a month after the signing ceremony, and I referred to this on the only public appearance I made concerning the treaties over Radio Mia just a few days before the plebiscite. It was a lengthy appearance. On that occasion I said that the understanding was somewhat vague because certain parts of it stipulated that it was an oral agreement [corrects himself]. The news casts, certain news reports stipulated that it was an oral agreement. Other reports said it was an understanding, a memorandum of understanding. Still other reports referred to it in other terms.

Everything seems to indicate that it was an oral agreement. However, it was not signed. When he returned to Panama and was asked about this matter, General Torrijos himself said: I have not even signed an autograph. Therefore, this understanding or agreement was not signed. In my opinion, it was an oral agreement. Hence, this oral agreement could be binding because they agreed on it before the plebiscite--if it had been voted on during the plebiscite. However, it was not voted on during the plebiscite. Many of the extensive, complex, confusing and ambiguous documents [as heard] of the 1977 treaties on the Panama Canal were voted on and this is one of the things that causes great concern to some of us: the ambiguous language of the treaties. But it [the Memorandum of Understanding] was not voted on during the plebiscite.

[Question] Dr Quintero, I have heard certain government officials say that the idea that there is no need to hold another plebiscite on the joint declaration is based on the fact that it was drawn up before the 23 October plebiscite and that, during a television appearance by General Torrijos in this station, he mentioned the declaration saying that he had not signed it but that he would be willing to do so because he saw nothing wrong in signing it since he agreed with its terms. The joint declaration was read during this program so that the people were aware of the declaration when they cast their votes 3 days later. What do you think of this?

[Answer] I am going to be compelled to read something here even though I would not like to do so. However, it is risky to quote somebody's views or remarks and make a mistake.

Senator Robert Byrd--as you know, he is the Democratic majority leader in the Senate--said on 7 October that if Panama did not explicitly recognize the U.S. right to take part in defending the canal after it passed over to Panama and to have priority use of it if there was an emergency situation, it would be difficult for the Senate to approve the treaties. It was later suggested--that is what the news report says, I do not know whether Senator Byrd used those words; I doubt it because he is a very shrewd and experienced man; he has been in the Senate and linked to Congress for many years--in senatorial circles, as the news report that was carried by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA and CRITICA on 9 October said, that a document be drafted in this sense that would not be publicized before the referendum--that is the word they used--scheduled to be held in Panama on 23 October 1977 to ratify the treaties. I mentioned this when I spoke earlier [over Radio Mia] noting that I did not think the position of reaching an agreement without publicizing it was very ethical. However, as far as I know, the text of the understanding or oral agreement between President Carter and General Torrijos was not publicized. It was not publicized and what he said when he returned to Panama is what we already know, what I already said about him not even signing an autograph.

No, then, I said that even if it was not signed it would be binding if it was a formal agreement. However, what did we vote on? It just so happens that I have a copy of the ballots used during the plebiscite. What did we vote on? The ballot reads: I agree with the new Panama Canal treaty, the treaty on permanent canal neutrality and operation of the Panama Canal, the documents that have been agreed upon, the notes exchanged, the maps, the related agreements and annexes signed between the governments of Panama and the United States on Wednesday, 7 September 1977.

We voted on all this, to use their favorite word, the whole package--that is the term Americans use. These documents appear in a publication issued by the national lottery and in an earlier short publication--the lottery publication is longer. They contain the two basic treaties, all the notes exchanged, all the related agreements, all the signed annexes and all the documents agreed upon, as the ballot clearly says, on Wednesday, 7 September. So the oral agreement--because I insist that it was an oral agreement--between President Carter and General Torrijos could and should have been included--and it would have already been voted on--but it was not included on the ballot.

[Question] Dr Quintero, what if the joint declaration is added or appended, but not as part of the treaties? As the devil's advocate, I am looking for a way so that, without being a part of the treaties or the documents voted on during the plebiscite, this joint declaration can be added or appended to the package, as you say, so that it will have legal force as far as we are concerned. Do you think this is possible?

[Answer] Well, the Senate usually does this. It usually approves or consents to [interrupts thought] because, I repeat, the Senate does not ratify the treaties. That is up to the President. However, approval is indispensable. If the Senate does not give its consent--consent is the word used in the Constitution of the United States--the President cannot ratify. The President is supposed to have negotiated with the advice and the full knowledge of the Senate. Then, the Senate sometimes approves and adds a protocol of declarations or an interpretative protocol. This is what they usually do. They often do this.

However, I do not know why they insist so much on two things. One is priority passage for U.S. warships in case of emergency. The word emergency is very vague and it means something different in Spanish than it does in English. This is another problem and forgive me for digressing, the same thing happens with the word amendment. The word amendment is much stronger in English law books than in Spanish. Amendment in English is a substantive reform. To amend the Constitution--we do not use this legal terminology--or to amend any other legal device is a very complex procedure in the United States. In Spanish, we speak of correcting something [enmendar la plana], making minor corrections to something [vamos a enmendar esto], and the intention to improve [proposito de enmienda]. The word amendment does not have the same strength in Spanish that it does in English.

Well, back to the other term I mentioned before I started to discuss the word amendment. As we were saying about the Senate's interpretative declaration, the Senate sometimes does this. It approves something with certain interpretative declarations. It adds an interpretative protocol. However, what concerns me is why all the insistence. There are two basic points. One is priority passage. All right, if you make bigger concessions, you might as well concede on minor issues. The two basic 1977 treaties on the Panama Canal, and I say basic because there is a number of treaties which hinge on those two, are known as annexes but are really treaties. Some of them even have preambles. The annexes on Article Three and Article Four of the canal treaty are treaties within a treaty because they have a lengthy preamble. If you make bigger concessions, you might as well concede on minor issues. The neutrality pact plainly gives the United States the right to intervene militarily in Panama before and after the year 2000. I do not see why all the insistence.

If there is a right to intervene militarily and if these treaties stress much more than previous treaties on Panama-U.S. relations the military nature of the Panama Canal and of the area or zone--as you may wish to call it because it is just a matter of changing the name from zone to area adjacent to the canal--priority passage for U.S. warships is a followup to that. I do not place too much importance on this. We already compromised on the major issue, giving the United States military control--another term that I try not to use but let me use, now--before and after the year 2000 through the so-called neutrality treaty, which is not really a neutrality treaty. Therefore, I do not place too much importance on the matter of priority passage for warships.

The other matter does draw my attention, however. It is the insistence that it be clearly and expressly stated without a shadow of a doubt that the United States will have the right to intervene militarily after the year 2000 when the canal or what remains of it returns to Panama. However, if the treaties are clear on this point, why the insistence on it? The only reason I can see for it is to clearly show the world, particularly the other hemispheric nations, that Panama agreed to possible military intervention, to the U.S. right to military intervention after the year 2000. They can do so before that date because this is clearly specified in the treaties. They can do so. They can intervene.

After these treaties become effective, they will be able to intervene here. According to the treaties presently in force, they could not do so right now. This is intended in case sometime in the future the [right of] intervention is contested by any Latin American country, such as Brazil which is becoming increasingly independent and looms as a future power or any other country--Peru, Colombia, Mexico which like Brazil also has a very clear-cut foreign policy--to be able to say this is clearly spelled out and Panama agreed to it and all of you backed it. This should have been explained on 7 September, the day of the signing ceremony so that the chiefs of state and chiefs of government who attended the signing ceremony would know what they were endorsing by being there.

That is included in the treaties, so I do not place much practical importance on insisting so much on this point but I do place much importance on the idea. I feel it will be cause for concern for future generations who will have to live with the effects of these two treaties, its many long-range effects.

[Question] Dr Quintero, I would like to ask you one last question. How do you view the fact that the senators who have come to Panama have all insisted on the need to make amendments or additions to the treaties while the White House contends that it does not favor amending the treaties and that they should be approved as they were signed on 7 September, bearing in mind that there has been a slight change in the White House stand in the past 10 or 12 days? During a tour of the United States, Secretary of State Vance said that certain amendments might be considered and a spokesman for the State Department yesterday voiced his satisfaction over General Torrijos' willingness to include the joint declaration in the treaties. How do you view this duality of positions?

[Answer] This is one of the things that most attracts my attention. It was published here that the Carter administration remains firm on its position: [apparently reading from a newspaper] the Panama Canal treaties do not need amendments or changes. That is what the Carter administration said through a spokesman for the State Department. On Carter's behalf, the spokesman said that the treaties signed on 7 September clearly state that the United States will have absolutely adequate defense rights. Defense today means war. It means military warfare [arte militar]. That is why many of us were opposed to using it. The United States will have complete and adequate rights to defend the Panama Canal after it returns to Panama in the year 2000. That is what one spokesman for the State Department said.

However, that same day Panamanian Foreign Minister Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla said that General Torrijos had an open mind regarding the possibility of changing the treaties. However, the United States would have to take the initiative about changing the treaties.

An American AP newman whose name I cannot remember right now but who is a good [reporter] commented that if the United States had to take the initiative and that if it is up to the executive and not the senators to suggest those changes [interrupts thought] the senators can make suggestions to the President of the United States but not come here to make suggestions to the Panamanian administration. This is very clear in American constitutional law. The senators have no reason to become involved in the negotiating process as far as the other negotiating party is concerned. They can participate with their government because they have the power to advise and consent. That is what the commentator said.

If the American administration says that it is willing to consider any changes as long as the U.S. Government takes the initiative and the State Department spokesman, speaking on behalf of President Carter, says that he contends that the treaties do not need to be amended and that as they stand it is clear that the United States has completely adequate rights to defend the canal after it is physically turned over to Panama in the year 2000, he [presumably the AP correspondent] said we cannot see what amendments and reforms will be made.

So this latest change that you say has taken place at the level of the national administration would have to be an explicit and direct proposal by the President of the United States who is the chief of the negotiators or the Executive Branch, but not of the Legislative Branch, not of the senators. The senators have suggested many things. One of them--I cannot remember who but I think it was Dole--spoke of 40 amendments [Velasquez notes agreement] and Senator Baker--who is already thinking about a presidential candidacy in 1980--spoke of taking with him a package of amendments that he has not mentioned to anybody. Some senators speak of things that are hard to understand.

Baker suggests--and I would be happy with that--that any reference to the sea-level canal be left out of the treaty. So much the better to leave it out of the treaty. The less we become bogged down on the issue of the sea-level canal, the better. That way we will be free to follow our own course. He suggests that, and I do not see why. The clauses on the sea-level canal contained in the treaties are very advantageous to them. However, as I have said, the Senate sometimes states its consent by adding a protocol or explanations or an interpretation. It has done that. Some countries have gone along with it. Others have not. If the Panamanian Government agrees to it, they will feel that there has been express or tacit agreement.

However, I believe that the tacit acceptance of this would violate the plebiscite, the spirit, the nature and legal value of the plebiscite held on 23 October 1977, because the people voted on all that was signed on 7 September, not for successive agreements even though they may have been discussed after [corrects himself] before the day of the plebiscite. That is my honest opinion and I feel that disapproval--which I cannot foresee [interrupts thought] because as I said when I spoke a week before the plebiscite: I have no doubt that the U.S. Senate will approve these treaties because experts have had 13 years to draw it up and because it contains great advantages for the United States, and all American statesmen with political insight know that this treaty is good for them. Furthermore, these treaties have counted on the firm support of the Pentagon, that is, the U.S. military department.

A handful of senators dissent. They have to play their role. Some of them have even been movie stars and they know that in any movie somebody has to play the role of the bad guy, even though deep down [interrupts thought] they have to play their role to make it seem there is a great conflict and controversy. The treaties will be approved because, it is true, the hypothetical rejection of the treaties--to discuss a possibility that is very remote to me--would cause problems for Panama under the present circumstances. I am not one of those who criticize the treaties to criticize the government or oppose it because that is not my position, or because I feel that the negotiators did a bad job. Panama could not have obtained any more. The United States said this is all we will cede. And these treaties are basically the 1967 treaties with some variations.

Why were the 1967 treaties rejected by the people while these were approved during the plebiscite? For a number of reasons that need not be discussed here. However, one of them is that the people, wise as they are--at least a large segment of the Panamanian population--reached the conclusion that instead of negotiating all over again for another 13 or 10 years to reach to the same solution, we might as well approve the treaties as they are. Since there is a desperate economic situation, a huge debt, all this would of course worsen.

When he came to Panama, Goldwater said that the treaties will not resolve Panama's economic problems. Well, some economists feel they will indirectly contribute to resolving our economic problems. That may be the case because I cannot see how they would result directly in an immediate improvement. They will indirectly bring about greater confidence for domestic and foreign investments. However, I repeat, if Congress, the Senate, does not approve the treaties, if it does not obtain the necessary two-thirds vote, the 67 votes, that would have adverse effects in Panama.

On the other hand, the adverse effects in the United States, particularly for the Carter administration, would be immense. Furthermore, there would be even a moral sympathy in the whole world for Panama, and the Panamanians who have promoted this treaty would loom large because it was rejected after all. However, the Carter administration would be dealt a hard blow.

For President Carter personally, as far as his political outlook is concerned, the effects would be far worse than for the incumbent Panamanian administration. For the country, well of course it would have some adverse effects in Panama, particularly as regards the confidence of businessmen and other national and international businessmen. However, the incumbent administration would win international sympathy. I am not saying that [will happen]. As I said, I am here discussing remote possibilities because I have always been of the opinion that the Senate will reject, excuse me, will approve the treaties by a small margin. It has already been calculated: two-thirds, more than two-thirds, [words indistinct]. Some will have to be opposed for a number of reasons, in order to give the world the impression that the United States is making great sacrifices through a number of concessions to Panama and the other things that pertain to the image that the American administration has tried to portray in this sense. So, as I said, in my judgment, nothing can be added without contradicting the legality of the plebiscite.

[Question] Dr Cesar Quintero, I thank you very much for your statements to Televisora Nacional on this subject which is so important to all Panamanians.

[Answer] Thank you for inviting me. Let it be known that I received the invitation yesterday and that my replies have been given extemporaneously but these are things that I have meditated on and so they are my opinion [Velasquez interrupts him]

[Question] But Dr Quintero you are a man who has always devoted himself to the study of these problems and so it does not matter how little notice you receive. He is always willing to accept.

[Answer] I accepted the invitation right away [Velasquez replies: "Very true, very true"] right away because I believe that it is my duty to state my views on this matter [Velasquez interrupts: "one must be responsible"]. If it were a matter of national politics, I do not think I would have accepted because I put that off [Velasquez: "Perhaps later, Dr Quintero"] I may later be able to state my [political] views. However, right now I think that those matters are subordinate to this big problem.

[Question] Thank you very much, Doctor.

[Answer] Thank you.

REPRESENTATIVES CONCERNED OVER SENATORIAL SUGGESTIONS

PA222304Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 20 Jan 78 p 4a PA

["Communique" appearing in the "Comentarios en Blanco y Negro" column]

[Text] The Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives has alertly observed all matters related to the Torrijos-Carter treaty ratification. However, we must note that the committee is concerned because during the weeks prior to and following Panama's ratification of the treaty, many U.S. senators have come to this country to make suggestions that we believe are not altogether acceptable.

With the 23 October plebiscite Panama concluded its part in the negotiations and gave its final word on the negotiated documents. Any addition or modification that will compel Panama to hold a new plebiscite will lessen the seriousness of the negotiations and could lead to unfavorable consequences.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives would be pleased if the U.S. senators would look upon the Torrijos-Carter treaty in a framework of mutual respect and abstain from making suggestions that Panamanians may find objectionable.

STATION COMMENTARY NOTES SENTIMENTS ON TREATY RATIFICATION

PA231954Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Jan 78 PA

[Station commentary: "Notes for the U.S. Senate"]

[Text] A few weeks before the debate on the Torrijos-Carter treaties in the U.S. Senate, the entire world, particularly the Latin American countries, is expecting a favorable decision from the congressmen, although some of them indicated that they support a hardline with Panama.

This optimism is neither unfounded nor romantic. It is also based on serious reservations on the part of our country, where students have been preparing mentally for a prolonged struggle with no limitations as to schedules or dates.

Each senator who has come to Panama and has toured the Canal Zone to determine the state of affairs has left with the certain impression that our people do not want any more colonialist stakes and do not wish to give shelter to antiguerrilla schools because they do not want to be accomplices to aggression against sister nations.

There is no doubt that this is a difficult period, not only because of the opposition in the United States against the treaty, but also because international and domestic conspiracies against the process of liberation have not yielded even for a moment.

But let us speak more clearly. In recent days, factions representing the traditional parties with vested economic interests have tried to blackmail the government by using a slogan regarding the so-called "democratic liberties." In this they have been aided by certain U.S. senators and by the fine work of the CIA, which has well-trained agitators.

The U.S. Senate should realize that Panama is not a colony and that most of the Panamanians who live in the 77,082 square kilometers of the isthmus are not willing to return to the opprobious past or to see their sacrifice mocked, as the legendary antipatriots would have it.

Our people have taken, to date, the peaceful path of Gandhi, but they are also familiar with that of Ho Chi Minh and that of Nguyen Giap, being familiar with their history as victors over imperialism.

The people of Panama are the enemies of unjust aggression, oppression, and offenses. But they are also people who show solidarity with their friends. Panama, in effect, considers itself the friend of the people of the United States, who also work and struggle for a more prosperous future, without war and without mass extermination.

We Panamanians are in solidarity with the political prisoners in the United States on whom the senators have turned their backs. While in the United States the 1979 [as heard] military budget of $150 billion has just been approved, in a jail in North Carolina Reverend Benjamin Chavez continues to pray and to criticize his country's system for the succession of injustices practiced against those who oppose imperialist policy.

The U.S. Senate should realize that it is not enough to talk of human rights in Panama, while the Wilmington-10, the Pendleton-14, and the Dawson-5 remain in jail. The U.S. Senate should definitely realize that a just struggle always prevails and that, in Panama's case, sovereignty and the struggle for national liberation are involved.

CHIEFS OF STATE TO BE INFORMED ON TREATY RATIFICATION

PA231728Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 21 Jan 78 pp 1, 14 PA

[Text] Foreign Relations Minister Nicolas Gonzales Revilla and a work team appointed by Gen Omar Torrijos will visit several countries in Latin America, Europe and the Third World to directly report on the recent developments regarding the ratification of the Torrijos-Carter treaty.

The work plan was disclosed at the end of the seminar on Panama-U.S. relations held at the University of Panama.

Minister Gonzalez Revilla said that the Panamanian Government has great interest in informing our friends abroad of the bilateral problems that have arisen between the colossus of the north and our country, particularly with the meeting held less than 48 hours ago with members of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee.

In his closing speech, Minister Gonzalez Revilla said that the level of work of the participants to the fourth seminar on the course on Panama-U.S. relations indicated that the country was not on the wrong path in guiding those who in the future must continue our country's liberation struggle in carrying out the Torrijos-Carter treaty.

"Panama must keep its friends well informed, especially the chiefs of state who have tilted the balance in favor of Panama," Minister Gonzalez Revilla told CRITICA.

GUATEMALA

CAPTURED GUERRILLA REVEALS NAME OF NEW ORGANIZATION

PA231516Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1220 GMT 23 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Guatemala City--Guerrilla Mario Alberto Dominguez Morales is recovering at Mazatenango State Hospital from seven bullet wounds received during an armed clash between rebels of the extreme left and the government's security forces; the clash left five dead and two seriously wounded.

Dominguez Morales admitted being a member of the Revolutionary Organization [organizacion revolucionaria], a guerrilla organization. He has requested protection from the Justice Department, alleging that local police forces might try to eliminate him.

Police vigilance has been increased around Dominguez Morales to stop any attempt by his comrades to free or kill him in order to prevent him from giving any important information to the authorities.

Dominguez Morales explained that the organization he belongs to wants to end social injustice in Guatemala, where wealth is in the hands of a small minority. He added that the people must have access to food, education, health, entertainment, clothing and other privileges to have equality, social order and peace in the country.

Dominguez Morales was captured during a shootout with police units who were investigating several fires on plantations on the southern coast, the kidnaping and extortion of wealthy people and attacks on peasants. Two secret police agents and three guerrillas were killed during the shootout. One of the guerrillas killed was identified as Clemencia Paez Carcamo, a teacher who the government said was trained in Cuba and was living in Mexico. The other two are still unidentified, but it is known that they were Salvadorans who had recently joined the guerrillas in Guatemala.

NICARAGUA

NATIONAL STRIKE COMMITTEE CALLS FOR GENERAL STRIKE

PA240338Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0048 GMT 24 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 23 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--A series of staggered strikes in various activities began to affect Managua today as part of a protest that is demanding that a real trial be held in order to prevent Pedro Joaquin Chamorro's murderers from going unpunished. Leaflets have been circulating since early this morning, issued by a "National Strike Committee," calling on workers, students and businessmen to stage a general national strike.

The first businesses to close their doors were the La Colonia supermarkets owned by the Mantica brothers. The stores are located in several parts of Managua. Some construction companies also closed, as did some small businesses in the city. Several gasoline stations began to ration the sale of oil byproducts. It was reported that students in the city of Leon staged a demonstration this afternoon to demand a real investigation into Chamorro's murder. A large part of the commercial sector in Leon closed its doors and there are indications that the strike will continue tomorrow, perhaps culminating in a national strike.

Meanwhile, the National Democratic Liberation Union decided to express its solidarity with the demand made by the National Strike Committee for justice in the Chamorro murder case. It was learned from official sources that President Somoza has invited the directors of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce to a meeting next Friday to discuss the climate of "look-out" [in English] which exists in the city.

FSLN HITS CHAMORRO MURDER, SAYS VIOLENCE 'ONLY COURSE'

PA210139Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1740 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 20 Jan (AFP)--In an official communique sent to the press in this capital last night, the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) of Nicaragua, which describes itself as "proletarian," condemened the murder of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro. The FSLN communique states that "the revolutionary action of the masses, the expression of a profound antidictatorial sentiment, found its proper channel in the last few days. The masses have expressed in popular violence their rejection of vile assassinations and of the regime that fosters them." The communique adds that "this clearly indicates the beginning of the only course that can lead to the revolutionary overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship: organized violence by the masses, united in a formidable revolutionary bloc."

SUSPECT IN CHAMORRO CASE GIVES INCOHERENT TESTIMONY

PA201638Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Silvio Pena Rivas has staged a ridiculous and tedious farce before the judge. Yesterday, Radio Corporacion and SERCANO listeners heard Pena, one of those involved in the death of Dr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, make cynical and incoherent depositions before the first criminal judge of the District of Managua. The prisoner's appearance before the judge was very long. To give the impression that he was telling the truth, Pena went into unimportant details that contribute nothing to solving the crime. In our opinion, this show should have ended once and for all. The judge must ask more precise questions to the witnesses. The defendants had confessed to the crime before the police court judge, and have now denied before the judicial authority that they had any part in it. Pena spoke endlessly and said nothing. While everybody expected him to stick to the facts, he resorted to subterfuges and went from one story to another. However, he was asked clear and concise questions, such as: Where have you worked in the last 12 months? What was your salary? Where did you get the money to buy a house in Villa Fontana that cost 400,000 cordobas and a fancy car when you had a spare one? If you did not work, where did you get the money to set up a carpentry shop? Why were you afraid to tell the truth before the police court judge and then told it to Judge Rivas Cuadra, when the police officers themselves had told you to testify according to your conscience?

ACAN Report

Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0239 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 19 Jan (ACAN-EFE)--The investigation into the murder of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal was greatly confused here today by Silvio Pena Rivas, who is accused of being the ringleader of the murderers who killed the opposition leader.

In a statement that will last who knows how many hours more tonight, Pena Rivas denied any participation in the brutal murder on 10 January. Pena Rivas is the owner of the green Toyota from which the shots were fired at the murdered newsman. The automobile was abandoned by the murderers because it was damaged in a collison with Chamorro's car. Although the above-mentioned automobile was owned by Pena Rivas, it was being driven by Harold Cedeno Aquirre, another suspect who has also denied any participation in the crime. Pena Rivas told Judge Guillermo Rivas that he was accused by his own friend Harold Cedeno at the Managua central police offices. Pena Rivas said that he heard Cedeno's statements at the police station because of the carelessness of those investigating the murder. Pena Rivas told the judge that Cedeno said "incredible" things about him, such as for example, that the crime had been ordered by the CIA. He told the judge that Harold Cedeno had made incredible accusations, citing for example that he (Pena Rivas), as CIA representative in Nicaragua, would be in charge of executing Dr Chamorro. Another charge was that after the crime he would be transferred to Chile to take charge of the situation in that South American country on the CIA's orders. Pena Rivas said, however, that this was all a lie. He also said that it was a lie that the Cuban-American Pedro Ramos Quiroz had given him 100,000 cordobas ($14,285) to kill Dr Chamorro. Pena Rivas said that perhaps Harold Cedeno, a 25-year-old office worker, is trying to implicate him because "he and his family are being threatened by someone who is not the police." The prisoner also said that all the statements he gave to the police assuming responsibility for the murder had been given because of exhaustion and pains he felt in his legs and back as a result of the various positions assumed during the lengthy questioning, during which he was manacled with his hands behind or in front of him. The prisoner explained why he always carried large sums of dollars. This had caused great surprise in the country. He said that the dollars were not his but belonged to the money broker Silvio Rene Vega Zuniga, who in turn obtained them from a millionaire North American lady who was his mistress. The prisoner said he did not know the name of the North American lady who gave money to the money broker, adding that he had never seen her and that he only knew that she lived at the Intercontinental Hotel in this capital. He said that for the "job" of pretending that the dollars, which really belonged to Silvio Vega Zuniga, were his, he earned 25 percent of the dollars he exchanged.

Newsmen and the public in general who fill the courtroom when Pena Rivas gives his declarations are completely surprised by the prisoner's statements. The prisoner said that it was under similar circumstances that he had learned the names of Domingo Acevedo Chavarria (who confessed of having fired three times on Dr Chamorro), Juan Ramon Acevedo Chavarria and the other prisoners. During his lengthy testimony, the prisoner says that he was compelled to confess his participation in the crime because of the poor physical conditions in which he found himself during the interrogation. At various times during the hearing, the prisoner has lost control of himself when questioned by the Public Ministry representative, Raymundo Romero Chavez. What is more, the prisoner has even been arrogant when answering the judge's questions. The statements made by Pena Rivas 10 days after the newsman's death has pushed the investigations back to the beginning. Although the statements made to Police Judge Col Luis Ocon left clear who the material authors of the crime were, there is still the issue of the identity of the persons who paid for the crime. However, now before Judge Guillermo Rivas, the prisoners, with the exception of Silvio Vega Zuniga, the money broker, have denied any participation in the crime. In the writ prepared by Judge Rivas, it appears that Harold Cedeno confessed to the police based on statements he heard from Silvio Pena Rivas, who was being questioned at the police station. Today, however, Silvio Pena Rivas told the judge that all he had confessed regarding the crime had been heard from Harold Cedeno when they were being questioned by the police. Therefore, Silvio Pena, the key witness, instead of contributing information that could solve the murder, has on the contrary introduced more confusing factors.

RADIO CITES ETHIOPIAN CHARGES AGAINST U.S., OTHER STATES

FL240025Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopia has accused the United States, Great Britain, West Germany, Saudi Arabia and Iran of carrying on a policy designed to disintegrate the country. Ethiopian deputy foreign minister Dawit Wolde Georgis declared at a press conference in Rome that these countries are promoting counterrevolutionary groups inside Ethiopia, introducing arms and threatening to internationalize the conflict.

The Ethiopian diplomat charged that the United States has taken Saudi Arabia and Iran as a springboard to channel large quantities of arms supplies to Somalia. In similar terms he referred to the policy followed in this regard by West Germany and Great Britain. At the same time, he described as hypocritical the recently concluded NATO countries conference, which examined the situation in the so-called Horn of Africa.

After noting the solidarity of socialist countries with the Ethiopian revolutionary process, the diplomat expressed his conviction that the Ethiopian people will invariably continue on their path until victory because their cause is a just one and because world reaction will crash in its attempt to liquidate the revolution.

FSLN: CHAMORRO'S DEATH 'SOMOZA'S RESPONSE TO OPPOSITION'

PA210138Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0409 GMT 20 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Havana, 19 Jan (EFE)--The representatives of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Cuba today said here that "the assassination of Pedro J. Chamorro is Somoza's response to the opposition sectors" that are trying "to show civilized manners" to the Nicaraguan president.

According to the FSLN communique, "Chamorro sought to provide the reformist bourgeoisie with a political aparatus," so his death suggests the closing of all possibilities of finding a solution to the national problems along that path. The communique adds that unlike others of "the opposition bourgeoisie" Chamorro managed to abstain from participating in the game of "pacts and deals" with Somoza. For this reason, he constituted the regime's principal successor in any "democratic bourgeois" opening.

Nonetheless, the Sandinists in Cuba feel that Chamorro's proposals were incorrect for a country such as Nicaragua, "where there is a strong revolutionary movement with well-defined strategic objectives." The FSLN communique attributes the responsibility for the assassination of the famous editor and journalist to Somoza, charging that "Somoza's dictatorship is trying to divert world public opinion" by presenting the crime as an isolated incident involving underworld elements and Cuban exiles.

FIDEL CASTRO DEDICATES BULK SUGAR TERMINAL 20 JAN

Report on Dedication Ceremony

FL202225 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic Radio and Television in Spanish at 2145 GMT on 20 January begin live coverage of the dedication of a bulk sugar terminal in Puerto Carupano, Las Tunas Province, for which Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has been announced as the main speaker.

Black and white television coverage opens with shots of the terminal's installation as the television announcer explains the terminal's construction projects and reports that the Soviet ship Irkutsk will be the first ship to transport bulk sugar from the terminal. Television cameras continue showing shots of the installations and, as the people gather near the terminal for the dedication ceremony, the announcer continues giving background information on the terminal. People in the crowd carry placards referring to the 11th World Youth and Student Festival as well as small flags of different colors. The dais is set up adjacent to the port area. One sign carries a quote of Fidel Castro saying: "Let us be more austere and efficient than ever."

At 2156 GMT the announcer reports that Fidel Castro "arrived a few minutes ago" and is now touring the installations. Castro and other Cuban officials arrive on the dais at 2158 GMT. The national anthem is played at 2159 as the camera focuses on the Cuban flag and then cuts to shots of leaders on the dais. Politburo Member Juan Almeida Bosque is seen on the dais.

Announcer Manolo Ortega reports that Fidel Castro is presiding over the ceremony, along with "other members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the party, Las Tunas PCC First Secretary Faure Chomon Mediavilla and other members of the party Central Committee." Manuel Frutos Soza begins speaking at 2202 GMT on behalf of the workers. He hails the work done to complete the terminal, and he pledges that the workers will continue their work to build socialism and are willing to work anywhere when needed. Frutso Soza presents Castro with what he describer as the last sugar bag from the terminal, which will now handle sugar in bulk. After Frutos Soza finishes his speech at 2207 GMT, Castro is seen talking to him. Castro is then introduced and, after the chanting of "Fidel" and applause from the crowd subsides, he begins speaking at 2209 GMT.

Text of Castro Speech

FL202317Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2209 GMT 20 Jan 78 FL

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro at dedication of bulk sugar terminal in Puerto Carupano, Las Tunas Province--live]

[Text] Comrade workers, dear compatriots of Las Tunas Province: We thought there was going to be a small event on this wharf, and we have found this large crowd, which will not even be able to applaud because there is no room. [applause] We have reason to be satisfied, more than enough reasons to be satisfied and happy this afternoon; among them is the dedication of this project, which is of great significance for all.

This matter of raw sugar has a history. In the last century, sugar was loaded in wooden boxes. There were times when it was loaded in barrels, which weighed 500 pounds and even more than 1,000. Can you imagine a team of oxen hauling barrels which weigh 1,000 pounds? But above all, can you imagine what men had to do in order to load those barrels onto the wagons and afterward aboard vessles? Things improved later on and the sugar was loaded in smaller boxes. But in those days, sugar did not come out as refined as it is now. The sugar was a little bit like molasses candy. That is why it could not be packed in bags and boxes were used instead. The technology improved later on and the sugar grains were more refined, drier, and it became possible to pack the sugar in bags. But that did not improve the life of the workers in the least, because then it was packed in 325-pound bags. The workers in the warehouses of our sugar mills, at the railroad cars and at the ports then had to shoulder bags weighing 325 pounds. Listen, you must have very strong shoulders to carry 325-pound bags, and on top of that they had very little nourishment. No one can imagine how our workers were able to carry those bags. They were true heroes.

Afterward, as a result of our workers' struggle, they were able to attain a reduction in the weight of the sugar bags. What was the reduction? Was it 250 pounds? How much did this bag weigh? Not this one; this is 100 pounds. It was approximately 250 pounds; the weight of the bag was reduced. But it continued to be a tragedy. Everything was done by hand, and on the shoulders. In addition, another factor is the loading time for a vessel--10 days, 15 days, 20 days and even 25 days loading a vessel. All that work was done by hand. It is clear that the capitalists were interested in shipping the sugar in bulk because they saved in manpower, made more money. But the workers said: No, then we would be unemployed. We would rather carry the 325- or 250-pound bags than allow the sugar to be handled in bulk. In those days, the sugar mills were owned by the property owners; the railroads were owned by the property owners; the ports were owned by the property owners and the capitalists. The people had nothing. They would gain nothing from the handling of bulk sugar because they would be left without jobs. The workers opposed it.

Everything changed later on. The sugar mills ceased to be owned by the property owners; the canefields and sugarcane areas ceased to be owned by the landowners; the transportation means ceased to be owned by the capitalists; the ports ceased to be operated by private enterprise; and everything became the property of others. Whose property? [Crowd answers: "The people"] It became the property of the people. It became the property of our workers and peasants. Then, it was possible. If it was going to benefit the workers, if it was going to benefit the people, let the sugar come in bulk. [Castro smiles as the crowd applauds] With the revolution, unemployment ended and the problem was another thing. There was a lack of arms to carry the bags, haul them and carry them to the ports.

Then, the bulk sugar was going to solve a serious problem of the country's economy and of the people. That is what socialism can do by making the contradiction between an economy that does not belong to the people and the people's interest disappear. When the economy belongs to the people, then let everything come. Let the harvester that liberates us from cutting by hand come; let the bulk sugar that liberates us from carrying those bags come; let mechanized transportation come; let mechanization come; let automation come, because all of this belongs to the people.

Thus, with the triumph of the revolution, this system of bulk sugar began to develop. During the first years of the revolution, Che showed great concern over this and in stepping up the construction of the first bulk sugar warehouses, the first terminals. The first were those at Guayabal and at Matanzas. Later on, the one at Cienfuegos was built. In order to show you the benefits derived from one of these terminals, suffice it to point out that more than 10 million tons of sugar have been shipped through the Cienfuegos terminal since it was built.

And in bags alone--and bags have to be imported and paid for in foreign currency--the Cienfuegos bulk sugar terminal has saved around 50 million pesos in foreign exchange for the country. However, it is not only the millions and tens of millions in foreign exchanged that it has saved, but the hundreds of thousands, the millions of hours of hard work it has saved for our workers.

Four more terminals are now being built and completed--the Boqueron terminal in Guantanamo, which was completed in the middle of last year; this one in Carupano, which is inaugurated today; the one in Mariel, which will be inaugurated very soon; and the Ceiba Hueca in Manzanillo, which will be inaugurated this year. Four more terminals and we will then have seven bulk sugar terminals. These seven terminals represent a labor savings of between 5,000 and 6,000 men per year. Furthermore, they represent a great savings in foreign exchange, which we had to spend on bags.

These are not the only benefits. Sugar has to be sold to specific buyers in the world. These buyers have built bulk sugar installations. In order to be able to export sugar, they want the sugar in bulk because it reduces costs. Our country must be prepared for such exports. Of course, not all customers buy bulk sugar. There are always some customers who do not have the piers to handle bulk sugar, and they buy sugar in bags. Refined sugar cannot be shipped in bulk. It must be shipped in bags. But bag shipment is also being mechanized, and we already have mechanized shipment of bags in Matanzas, and we will soon have [mechanized] shipment in bags in Guayabal for those customers who want sugar in bags or for those customers who buy refined sugar.

The fact is that by 1980, with much better harvests, 90 percent, 90 percent of big harvests, 90 percent of our sugar exports will be mechanized. But there is something more--the time that is saved in ships, the 10,15, 20 and 25 days is reduced to 1 day. We are going to load that Soviet ship with 5,000 tons. In a few hours--10 or 12 hours--we will load that ship. We would have taken 10 days by other means. And the countries that buy our sugar also need to take advantage of their ships and their labor force, and save time. It is not the same thing to spend 24 hours to load a ship and 24 days to load another. The [former] ship can make more trips and produces more. Moreover, this allows us to fulfill our commitments; our harvest to grow; shipments to increase annually. With these warehouses, we can load ships in no time at all, in a few hours. In this way, we free man from some hard work. This is what socialism does. When it introduces technology, it does not do it to enslave the worker; to exploit the worker; to leave the worker jobless, but to help him. And in this way, thousands of our port workers are freed from such hard work.

When we were visiting the port and warehouses, we saw some comrades who were not carrying bags. They were moving a lever, opening the chutes. Some women were handling the automatic controls with some little buttons--so much sugar, 100 tons, for this hold; 600 for that one; 550 for the other, and so forth for the other hold and the other one because everything cannot be loaded simultaneously into a ship's hold or else the ship can capsize. But with buttons, the women were loading hundreds of tons in hours--in an hour, which before took scores of workers days. This means that the workers, doing work that is less hard, will load three times more sugar in a year.

Can you imagine that the last bag of sugar was delivered here? It was bag No 102,888,898. I remember it, I remember it. [applause] I remember it because after the 102, all were eights except the second to the last, which was a nine. [laughter] I said to myself: Caramba! If there had been 10 bags less, we would have had 102,888,888. [laughter] But we no longer have a lottery or the numbers racket or anything like that. [laughter] So we cannot be playing. In any case, it is a beautiful number: 102 million. How were those bags loaded: how through this port? With so much effort; so much sweat; so much sacrifice; so many problems of [workers] columns; so many difficulties so that our generations of workers could load 102 million bags on their shoulders!

This installation has many other encouraging things. In the first place, the project is 100 percent Cuban. Cuban planners, we are already capable of doing some things. Cuban executors. Moreover, it is a very rational project. All the old bag warehouses were used and adapted, and now, instead of warehousing bags, they are used for warehousing bulk sugar. The old installations were used.

All mechanized means were established. This is the work of the engineers and architects; they adapted everything; they prepared everything. There was narrow gauge, some 100 km of it, and everything could not be changed just like that. They built two railways--one narrow gauge and another standard gauge. This makes it possible for the [railroad] hopper cars to travel on both standard gauge and narrow gauge. Guiteras and Menendez [sugar mills] can use the narrow gauge and the Urbano Norris, Cristino Naranjo and Antonio Maceo [sugar mills] can use the standard gauge. The Rafael Freyre [sugar mill] uses the road. There is where the narrow gauge hopper cars, standard gauge hopper cars and dump trucks which carry the sugar on the road unload. [sentence as heard] Everything is solved. In addition, traffic is much better: One uses one way and another uses others.

But besides, the standard gauge hopper cars have not yet been built here; they had to be imported from Japan. But we are already building the narrow gauge hopper cars. I do not mean just here in Cuba, but here in Tunas the narrow gauge hopper cars were built. [applause] With what were they built? They were built with old wheels. It is an English name--that is why I do not know. It is called "trucks." What do the workers call it? Well, let us call it a set of wheels as Almeida calls it. We built the new hopper cars, which did not come from abroad but were built by Tunas workers, on old sets of wheels.

There is something else: In the future, the standard gauge hopper cars will also be built by us. The interesting thing is that not only was the project and building done here, but many of this terminal's components were also built here. With the exception of the scale--I do not know where the scale is; I think he left it behind; there it is! We had to import it...[leaves thought unfinished] The comrades of the Sugar Industry Ministry are already conducting studies to see if we can build it here. They are very expensive--$250,000. But if we bring the materials and components, we can build them here and save tens of thousands of dollars. We can save as well as create jobs in our country.

The rest of the mechanical components, except for the materials and motors, we built everything here in this terminal. This represents a development. We will have draftsmen, mechanical engineers, civil engineers, architects. Our workers acquire experience and manufacture all those things here. This undoubtedly represents an advance.

Now then, we have completed four new bulk sugar terminals. We had to do something about it, because the revolution builds so many projects--factories, schools, hospitals--that it does not have the time to inaugurate them. We could not let the completion of four bulk sugar terminals go by without honoring the inauguration. We had to pick one. Which one should we pick? We said: the Carupano terminal. [applause] Why? It is a tribute to the port workers of Carupano. [applause] Because throughout the years, they have been the most outstanding sugar bag workers throughout all these years of revolution. They have saved foreign currency, because there is an agreement that when a vessel arrives in port, it should be unloaded or loaded in so many days. If the country which exports does not load the vessel in that number of days, it has to pay the vessel the per diem--and it has to pay it in foreign currency for every hour, for every day of delay.

If the vessel is loaded ahead of schedule, then the vessel has to pay the country. Over many years, the Carupano port workers not only have saved in per diem, but have loaded the vessel ahead of schedule--and, consequently, obtained foreign currency for the country. The large majority of the vessels they loaded in these ports had to pay prompt clearance. [applause] The Carupano workers have established a large number of production records, and now, when the Carupano workers will no longer have to carry sugar on their shoulders; when the country has four more bulk sugar terminals and one of them had to be dedicated, the fairest thing to do to recognize those workers by the country was to dedicate this terminal in the port of Carupano. [applause]

This tribute includes all the workers of Las Tunas Province and it includes selfless sugarcane workers, sugar industry workers and transportation workers. Las Tunas has now become a province. It is not yet a rich province. Let us say that Las Tunas is less developed than other provinces. We are not calling it poor. We could not say it is poor. We are not calling it Cinderella [laughter in the crowd]; that is what Pinar del Rio Province was called.

Let us say that it is a province less developed than other provinces of the country for one reason or another. They are historic reasons. In some cases, the raw materials determine where to establish new industries. Other cases are determined by the port, geographic location. Las Tunas is not rich in mineral resources. Its resources are primarily agricultural. Nevertheless, the province has developed somewhat. It now has one of the country's largest sugar mills--the Guiteras sugar mill. It has several big mills--the Menendez, Argelia, Colombia [applause], Amancio Rodriguez and Peru sugar mills.

You do not have any small sugar mills; they are all big. And they continue growing and increasing their capabilities. The capabilities of the Jesus Menendez, Amancio, Colombia, Peru and practically all the others will increase. And the possibility for a new sugar mill is under study for the time when we attain greater sugarcane production; when the lands still not under cultivation are in production; when we attain greater yields per caballeria, and when we are able to expand the irrigation areas. We are working on this.

You know how these zones are. Sometimes they are too dry. It does not rain. And when there is no need for rain, it rains. But we do not have any big river here. The Cauto River did not want to come through here and it went over there. [the same with] the Nipe, Toa, Mayari. We do not have any big rivers here. It is not easy to find water. [There are] some underground basins, some small streams where microdams are built, and some slightly bigger ones where we can build certain dams. An effort is being made to study all the hydraulic possibilities of this province to see how we can expand the irrigation area. In any case, you will be one of the most important sugar producing provinces in this country. Production is growing. This year, sugar production increased according to plan from slightly more than 500,000 tons to nearly 700,000. It is a big increase. We have much more sugarcane this year. And we can have a good harvest.

Investments are being made in the sugar industry in order to expand and modernize it. In the future, we will have a daily grinding capacity of slightly more than 5 million arrobas.

There is an industrial development plan for Las Tunas. It is not too big, but it is something. Those were the data we were asking. [sentence as heard] In this 5-year period, there is an industrial development plan of more than 100 million pesos. The principal investments that are being made or planned are: the mechanical structures factory in Tunas, with a capacity for 20,000 tons; the bottle factory, with a capacity for some 300 million bottles--and since we have to work it is good to have refreshment: a beer; a little rum now and then, especially if it rains hard--of food stuffs, milk, fruits, medicines. In any case, we are going to have in Tunas a good bottle factory which will be the country's largest. [applause] There are: the floor title factory; the gravel and sand cleaning plant; the yeast factory in Guiteras, which will be able to produce 10,000 tons of yeast in order to utilize the molasses and get proteins from which we can get food; the bakery in Tunas; nine sugarcane collection and preprocessing centers; the silos; the liquid livestock feed factory; the bagasse boards factory of the Jesus Menendez Sugar Mill, which converts bagasse into boards and boards into furniture, housing and whatever is needed [applause], the refreshments factory; the Puerto Padre Salt Works; the prefabricated elements factory; the Guayabal bulk sugar terminal--its expansion so that it can have mechanized shipments of bags--this one which we are inauguarating today in Carupano.

There are: industrial investments in the Peru, Argelia Libre and Guiteras sugar mills, the diesel locomotives installation shop; the Jesus Menendez sugar mill's factory for hydros lime; reconstruction and expansion of the shop in the Amancio [sugar mill], and reconstruction and expansion of the shop in the Argelia Libre.

These are the industrial investments planned for this province during the present 5-year period. Aside from this, there is an important social investments plan such as urban basic secondary schools and basic secondary schools in the countryside, and hospitals. Two big hospitals are under construction--one in Puerto Padre and another in Tunas. A primary school teachers training school is under construction and a number of other projects, such as child care centers and homes for the elderly. However, we need more. We now have to determine in what period we are going to include other investments we need: the Camilitos [military vocational] school for the province, a vocational school for the province--that is to say, the Camilito vocational school; the physical education teachers training school for the province; the basic sports training school for the province; the arts school for the province; the school of education for the province, and the province's school of medicine. And this is not counting technological and polytechnical schools.

There is an entire program of social development. But considering that this is one of the less developed provinces; devoted to agriculture, it belongs to a group of provinces where it will become necessary in the future to step up the construction of housing, the construction of urban and rural housing. We cannot have so much cane and so much countryside without housing. We cannot produce such large quantities of sugar without housing. The workers living conditions have to be improved in the industries and in agriculture. A program of investments in irrigation has to be completed in order to increase production. Comrade Faure [chomon] was telling me that in general the province needs a greater effort on roads. We will have to build sports, recreational facilities. We have to find a way of making good use of that beach you have very near here. [applause]

A road is already under construction. Not only do we have to think about beaches but also about some pools in the municipalities, in the cities of the interior. Not only should you use those centers as recreational places during the summer but also for children's sports and to produce some champions. You already have a boxing champ. [someone yells "Stevenson"; applause] He is 2 or 3 kilograms overweight, but the trainers consider him to be in excellent condition, which makes us believe that for a long time to come you will have a champ in the highest division of boxing. [applause] The rest of the sports should be developed. The physical education teacher-training school will greatly contribute to that as will the basic sports training school.

Investments have to be made in waterworks, sewers. In a word, we believe that as a matter of national justice, these less developed provinces should be given greater attention and aid from the planning agencies of our economy. But we feel optimisitic. We will have more gravel, more sand, more cement. We have the strong-arms. We have machinery, much machinery. Those arms liberated from canecutting by the harvesters and those liberated from the ports are arms that can be used in other activities needed by the country.

Perhaps I should have pointed out also among the mechanization efforts the one I mentioned--the one of sugarcane. How many thousands and thousands of manual workers have we liberated with the harvesters? In the neighboring province of Holguin, we already have a good and modern harvester factory. [applause] We expect that you will not be forgotten. Your land is flat and can be mechanized perfectly well. Thus, cutting cane by hand has been partially liberated and will continue to be liberated progressively in the future.

This is the revolution. This is socialism. [applause] The cultural levels are being raised. There is an accelerated ongoing progress in school attendance in this province and in the rest of the country. The number of students is continuously growing in Las Tunas Province. All of you--sugar industry and port workers; cane workers; transportation workers; construction workers--know that your children have a guaranteed opportunity to study whatever they want to. They have the opportunity in education, which in the past only the children of the bouregois and landowners had. There is not a single child in this province without a school, without a teacher, without an opportunity to attend a secondary school, a polytechnic or preuniversity institute. And if he is outstanding in his studies, he has the opportunity to attend centers of higher education. Then, they could become physicians, engineers, artists, athletes or highly qualified workers. All the opportunities are within reach. That is what socialism and revolution mean. [applause]

Health is assured with the hospitals, polyclinics, dental clinics, child care centers for working mothers--in one word, as many possibilities as the revolution can offer our people. We have to struggle. We have to work. We have to face up to the various difficulties which arise. Now in Tunas, a special effort is demanded from us in this harvest, first because the planned sugar production increases by almost 200,000 tons of sugar. The cane is there and we have to cut it, process it and export it through this port.

In the past, the port could ship 200,000 tons; now, it can ship 600,000 with much fewer workers. But we have to produce the sugar. Climatic conditions have been adverse at the beginning of the harvest. There were heavy rains in December and heavy rains in January that have delayed us, especially here in this province. The sugarcane is not giving high yields yet because of humidity. And cutting and transportation have been interrupted because of the rains. Therefore, we are delayed in some provinces, especially in Las Tunas and Holguin. In Tunas, we are now at 72 percent of the plan as a result of these initial difficulties in December and the first half of January. However, we are not going to allow ourselves to be defeated by nature. We still have a few months of the harvest.

The situation is not the same in all sugar mills. There has been more delay in the Guiteras, Jesus Menendez, Argelia and Amancio sugar mills. There are some problems which have affected--but not as much--some [other] sugar mill's greater or lesser effectiveness and organization. In any case, there are four sugar mills where we must make a special effort. Number one is the Amancio because it is located in the south and the spring rains first begin in the south. That is why Amancio must make a special effort. And here, the Argelia has to work hard because it usually rains first around the Argelia, where the terrain is lower. Generally speaking, we can work in the Guiteras and Menendez sugar mills during May. We have that possibility. But the province as a whole needs to make a great effort in the months still remaining. It has to cut and grind more than ever--not 80 [percent] or 85, but 90 or higher. We must not let nature defeat us. The country requires this effort.

We are making a good harvest and we propose to have a good harvest with sufficient sugar. We are not going to disclose figures yet. Perhaps a little later on we will set aside sugar discretion and we will say what we are producing year by year. Let our competitors advise each other. [laughter] In any case, we are mechanizing cutting, transportation and ports, and we are automating the sugar mills. We do not have to fear anyone. And prices...well, they will get used to the idea that we are big sugar producers. We have our socialist market. We have the Soviet market, which accepts much sugar. Therefore, our markets are assured. It is no longer the mess of the past with restricted harvests here and over there. No, no. There will be nothing [like that]. We have sugar to satisfy the quotas of world markets and satisfy the growing needs of our friends, the socialist countries. [applause]

Now then, with these delays that have accumulated in this province and in Holguin, we have to make a special effort. The party, government and country expect a special effort from you, the people of Tunas. Tunas has never fallen behind--not in the '68 war or in the '95 war, or in the last struggles for liberation. Tunas never fell behind in patriotism or in the will to work. [applause] Tunas will not fall behind in this harvest. [applause] It does not matter how much it rains. You who have some of the country's biggest sugar mills; you who are big sugar producers will not fall behind. It does not matter how much it will rain; you will not fall behind in the harvest or in the [sugarcane] cultivation or plantings because in this year of 1978, we not only have to assure the present harvest, but also assure the one for 1979, which must be bigger, and the one for 1980, which must be even bigger. What we are cultivating now is for next year. What we are planting now is for the next harvest. And what we plant after June is for the 1980 harvest. In other words, three harvests will be decided this year--the '78 '79 and '80 harvests.

We have been gaining ground in [sugar] agriculture and industry. That is why now we feel certain when we speak of big harvests. We have the sugarcane. We have excess sugarcane. It has to be ground. [We have] new varieties that are yielding more. In recent days, we have been spreading a new variety--a very, very good one which has a high sugar yield. The old POJ is behind us and the 42231 [variety] is also being left out. It resists drought but has a low yield. It go ws much but does not produce much sugar. Sugar is foremost, plus molasses, bagasse and whatever is necessary. The country is changing its position on sugarcane shoots for sugarcane with much higher yields. The results can be seen in some provinces such as in Havana and Matanzas, where there has been rain and yet they are already almost at 12 in yield. [as heard] They are growing quickly and durable because the Barbados-4362, the Jaronu-60-5, the Cuba-87-51 are sugarcanes of great agricultural yields and of important industrial yields.

This is an investment, because if you have sugarcane that gives 10 percent more sugar it is as if the capacities of the sugar mills are expanded by 10 percent. It is very important.

We are now developing and importing new varieties. And we have great hopes to improve the qualities of our sugarcanes.

We are working intensely on irrigation. There is a plan to have 50,000 hectares by 1980...[Castro corrects himself] not 50,000 hectares, but 50,000 caballerias of sugarcane under irrigation. And work is already in progress on plans to reach 100,000 caballerias of sugarcane under irrigation by 1990. We will have greater assurance to cultivate and plant. We now have to wait for rain with tens of thousands of caballerias ready for planting when it rains. And sometimes when it rains it rains too much. It is better to have the water to plant in January, February and March. We thereby take better advantage of the planting. We have better quality planting. We can apply herbicides and we can use the fertilizers, use them much better, assure the harvests. If there is much rain in the year, we can store the water. If the year is dry, we then use the stored water.

The country is getting full of dams and microdams. In the not too distant future, all the rivers and streams will be dammed. We will not depend only on nature. Drought will not affect us as much. The rains...well that is one thing we cannot control for now; no one knows if they can be controlled in the future. The rains fall and our people do not have any spigot. However, in order to fight droughts which at times cause us a lot of damage, we will have the dams, microdams and irrigation systems. And our country will mount its sugar production on very, very solid foundations--mechanized, technological, with sugarcane harvesters for cutting; with herbicides for cleaning; with fertilizers for increasing production; with machines for plowing; with modern transportation means, and with ports like this one form which to ship the sugar.

We have advanced much during these years. In the past, all cutting was by hand; all hoisting was by hand; all weeding was with spades; all shipment was done on the shoulders--without any dam; without any irrigation, defenseless against droughts. And during these years, not only has the revolution been consolidated; not only has it defeated its internal enemies and external enemies; not only has it developed a broad internationalist policy and helped other nations, but we, with our work, almost 100 percent of the hoisting is done with machines. [sentence as heard] The sugarcane collection and preprocessing stations have increased their productivity. The sugarcane harvesters will be cutting around 60 percent of the harvest by 1980. A large portion of the weeds is eliminated with herbicides by the use of machines and planes. Fertilization is used on a large scale, and irrigation is being expanded at an accelerated rate.

These are the new foundations which in these years our people have been creating so as to have a solid economy without dead times; without hunger; without illiteracy; without a lack of teachers and schools; without a lack of doctors and hospitals. This is the result and fruit of our work. And we will continue advancing. We will continue developing the country. And we will accelerate [development of] the less developed provinces. And we will continue building and continue solving problems. And [even] if this generation does not have everything resolved, we know that these children who are growing up now will live with confidence in a world much better than the one we knew and even better than ours. [applause] We are working for this. We are struggling for this. And in this effort and this struggle, we are counting on you, people of Tunas, to be on the frontline and to give a prompt response to the calls of the fatherland and the revolution with the provincial People's Government organs [applause]; with the party in this province and its leaders, and with our Comrade Faure [applause], and old comrade-in-arms Faure Chomon, secretary of the party in this province. [prolonged applause]

We congratulate all of you for your brilliant successes. And to all of you people of Tunas, we express beforehand our confidence in future victories, our conviction that you militant workers and their patriotic sons will perform. Fatherland or death! We shall win! [shouts of "Venceremos," applause]

MARXISM-LENINISM PROFESSORS END MEETING IN HAVANA

FL201440Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Jose Ramon Machado Ventura has called the Marxism-Leninism professors of higher education, who have just concluded their first national meeting, the ideological workers of the combat frontline. The party leader made the closing remarks at the meeting, which held a 3-day work session at the Anibal Ponce Theater of Havana University. Some 300 professors of higher education, party schools and revolutionary Armed Forces schools and academies participated in the session. Also chairing the event were PCC Central Committee members Belarmino Castilla, vice chairman of the Council of State, and Higher Education Minister Fernando Vecino Alegret.

HART ATTENDS OPENING OF CASA DE LAS AMERICAS CONTEST

FL201952Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 78 FL

[Excerpt] The opening ceremony of the Casa de Las Americas 1978 contest was held this morning in Havana City with the attendance of Armando Hart Davalos, PCC Central Committee Politburo member, Council of State member and culture minister; the Casa de las Americas director, Haydee Santamaria, and Nicolas Guillen, both members of the PCC Central Committee.

STEEL MINISTER CLOSES INDUSTRY REVIEW MEETING

FL220108Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jan 78 FL

[Text] Iron and Steel Machinery Industry Minister Lester Rodriguez Perez gave the closing remarks at a meeting to assess the ministry's work in 1977. The head of the iron and steel machinery industry told of the successes and failures in this important field of the national economy during the year just ended and made known the principal tasks for 1978, pointing out among others, the following:

[Begin recording--Rodriguez] For this year, the investment plan programs the building of four sugar mills in Cuba. This truly fills us with pride. We know that these sugar mills will be completed with the highest quality. In addition, we will use the minimum of imported components and we will be able to save the country vast resources so that they can be used by the economy to satisfy the needs of the people. Not only has our country become the principal producer of sugar mills in the socialist camp through the CEMA Machinery Commission, but our Polish comrades have stated that they will build a sugar mill in Vietnam, which they hope will have a Cuban tandem. [end recording]

In his remarks, Lester Rodriguez Perez also said that production this year in the iron and steel machinery industry will increase more than 100 million pesos to surpass last year's technical-economic plan by 41 percent.

TRIBUTE TO DECEASED LABOR LEADER CONCLUDES 23 JAN

FL231630Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The week of tribute to Jesus Menendez on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of his death concludes today with the reading of his biography at work centers throughout the country. The main commemorative activity was held yesterday at the Jesus Menendez Sugar Mill in Las Tunas, with PCC Central Committee member Alfredo Menendez making the closing remarks.

He emphasized that Jesus Menendez was assassinated by imperialism and Cuban reactionaries because of his struggle's anti-imperialist and socialist content.

He recalled that the style of work of Jesus Menendez was to be linked to the problems of the working class and be sensitive to the demands of the workers as well as to learn from them.

REVOLUTIONARY ORIENTATION SEMINAR HELD IN CAMAGUEY

FL231640Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Jan 78 FL

[Text] The second provincial seminar on revolutionary orientation in Camaguey has concluded with Orlando Fundora, chief of the PCC Central Committee's Department of Revolutionary Orientation [DOR], presiding. The sessions of this second seminar were held at the Candido Gonzalez Party School. Provincial DOR Chief (Manuel Lefran) made the opening remarks and noted the work guidelines for 1978. Six work committees examined matters concerned with the work plan for this year, which includes propaganda campaigns and teams for people's opinions, press and radio.

Comrades Francisco Rivero and Armando (Budez) made special reports on the radio and press at the second DOR provincial seminar's plenary session.

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